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THE INDIA BILL.

As if to keep up the tradition of our lively Premier's luck, the news from India continues good, and the demand for Parliamentary Reform very moderate, just as he is busy with his India Bill. Probably, he likes the Indian Reform subject better than the other Reform one, and thinks that time would strengthen the sympathy with the Directors—so is determined to push on his advantage. In any case, the bill being here, it is our business to scan its provisions, and calculate its results, in that spirit of fair play which is the boast of an independent organ.

To begin with, it is on the whole a more moderate bill than once seemed probable. It does not make root-and-branch innovations, in the way that some people foretold—and for this lovers of the old system may thank the Press. Throughout the whole discussion, the public has been placed (we do not intend what Junius calls "an indecent comparison") between two not very tempting bundles of hay. On one side has been the old *régime*—that of a Company which has never been popular in England; on the other Downing Street and the Horse Guards, odorous of many jobs. Accordingly, there has been much variety in the positions taken up by our parties in the question. One section of Radicals has been *pro* the Company, and one section *con* it. One section of Conservatives has in the same way been opposed to another. The matter has not been made a subject of accurate political division. The result has been a fair amount of compromise and allowance than some feared—perhaps an auspicious omen that, after all, India will not be made such a battle-field of faction in future history.

The bill is based, however, on the regular principle of the supremacy of the Crown. There is no shrinking from that position. The Board of Directors is superseded as a governing body by a President and Council—both appointed by the Crown. The President is to be a high functionary, ranking with Secretaries of State, and assisted by a Secretary, who is to be capable of having a place in Parliament. Thus Indian affairs, like Colonial ones, will be directly exposed to Parliamentary criticism. It is true that, strictly speaking, they have always been so, through the Board of Control. But a vast deal depends on things which superficially seem only changes of form. When it is understood that the President sits in the House, on a level with the Secretaries of State, to represent the Supreme Government of

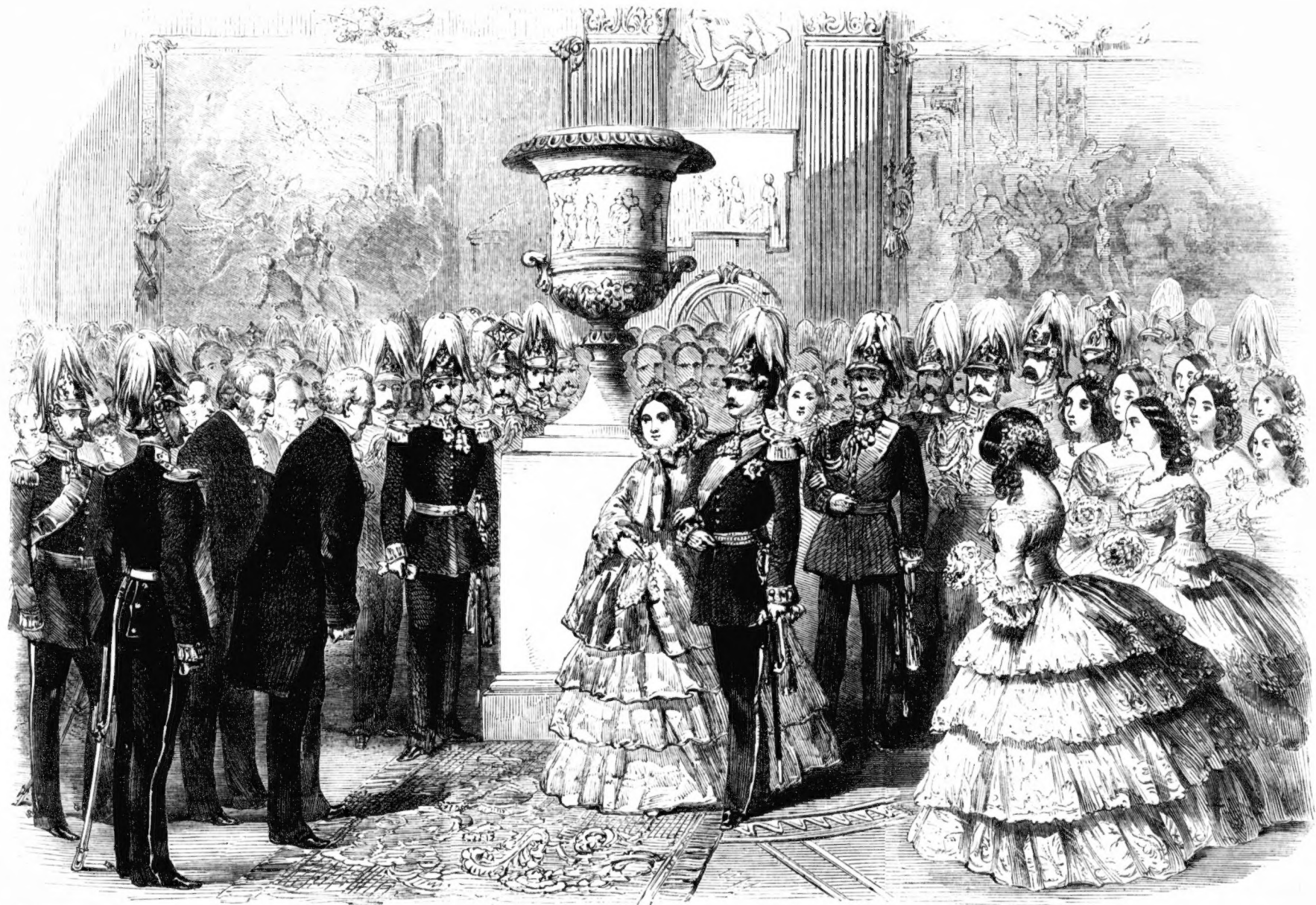
India, people will turn their eyes to him with a far keener curiosity than to a dubious inferior, whose relation to the India House is as little generally understood as his relationship to the Vernons. He will have (to use a homely comparison) much the same effect in drawing attention to Indian matters that a clock has in helping one who has not been used to such an instrument to take an interest in his time.

The Council destined to assist this potentate (the potentate himself will of course be a "lord," we suppose) are not to be indiscriminately selected at the pleasure of any Government. They must consist of persons who have been Directors of the East India Company, or who have served in India, or who have resided a certain time in India. But these limitations give scope enough to Government; and, furthermore, the President seems marvelously independent of the Council. Let us mention, *en passant*, that while we reiterate our adherence to the principle of the predominance of the Crown, we are anxious that all these details should be severely scrutinised, and as many checks as possible imposed on anything like a too exclusive domination. The number of the Council seems small. The regulation denying them seats in Parliament was made, no doubt, in answer to the objection that the new system would be a "party" one. We assent to the rule cheerfully enough. There are qualities of which the power of speaking in Parliament is no necessary concomitant, which are very needful to such a Council—and a seat in the Council will be honourable enough without the other. The peculiar character of the Indian Department must be allowed for; and more danger would accrue from its being *too much* brought into assimilation with the every-day influence of Parliament than from its being removed from these.

Government confesses to have found the question of patronage "difficult;" and here it is that the hitch has all along been expected to arise. It was *this* element which smashed Fox's India Bill—though his coalition with North had been so universally unpopular, that we suspect the said India Bill would have failed if it had been a much better one. Palmerston meets his difficulty by leaving the local patronage untouched, and keeping the writerships open to competition. We give emphasis to these points, because they embody the policy of the Minister in a very vital particular. At the same time, do not let anybody exaggerate their importance. The Local Council is, by the same bill, to be appointed

by the Governor-General; and, considering the nullification of the Company which the bill must gradually produce, we confess we see little patronage of any importance likely to be left independent of the Crown. What, then, is to be done?

There is great need of a little common sense, on this subject of patronage generally, being diffused throughout the country. It is absurd to suppose that where men have anything to give away, they will not often give it away from motives of favour and connection. They will do this whether they be East India Directors or Councils of India; and the only course for the public is, to put such checks on the exercise of the power as common experience points out to be necessary. One great influence—that of what is called "public opinion"—is entirely in their hands; and if we had a good rattling demonstration on the occasion of such appointments as we have had lately,—Ministers (who are generally, now-a-days, mere weathercocks, and only take such liberties because they think no breeze likely to arise)—would soon draw in their horns. It is the general flunkeyism and want of spirit which encourages intriguers to perpetrate jobs; and what can you do by mere regulations about patronage when some choice *must* be left, after all, in the hands of persons in authority? You can only exercise the influence in question—a control of opinion, and use the competitive scheme as a mechanical aid. That this is to be retained, we have been solemnly assured; and all we can say is, that if England neglects to see it carried out, it deserves to lose India. With it, and assuming a proper interest in Indian matters, there seems no reason why there should not be as good an Indian service under the flag of the Crown as under the flag of the Company. If the Company gave us Lawrence, the Crown gave us Havelock; and the middle classes, if they are true to themselves, will have plenty of chances of verifying their pretensions. The truth is, that the power of the aristocracy, which writers who support it on every other occasion, are now seeking to make a bugbear of in the interest of "The Company," depends more on the acquiescence of the middle class than on anything in the constitution itself. With all their wealth, their seats in the House, and their newspapers, why do not the middle class secure themselves an equitable administration of patronage? By properly using their power they can make themselves quite safe under the present bill; and if they neglect their power, it matters



PRESENTATION OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF POTSDAM TO THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM IN THE HALL OF THE GREAT ELECTOR.—(SEE PAGE 146.)

little what bill they have, at all. But indeed there is no such necessary antagonism between classes as some people are always labouring to make out, and India will never be the favourite ground of that degraded section of society, whether middle or upper, the great object of which is to snare through life prosperously, at the expense of their friends and the public.

So much for the general outlines of the bill, which is not to be discussed within the limits of a single article. We have all along maintained that the tendency to make the Crown supreme was the right tendency, and that—given proper conditions—a change was desirable. The present bill needs improvement; but we do not quarrel with its principles, and are thankful for what it leaves as well as what it takes away. The time of its production is another matter. It might have been postponed without inconvenience; and since there is to be a Reform Bill this session, the Reform Bill might have come first. But to be haggling long over an attempt to make the Crown supreme, would not raise our country in the eyes of the natives of India. They must perfectly understand by this time that it is the Crown which has kept England's flag up through the mutiny, and must think it exceedingly natural that the Crown should begin to call itself what it really is.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The committee of the legislative corps charged with examining the proposed law of public safety, has, after much hesitation and delay, expressed itself favourably to an amendment, according to which extraordinary measures shall not be taken against a suspected individual, unless the Minister of the Interior, the General commanding in the department, and the Procureur-General agree with regard to it. Moreover, it proposes that the law shall remain in force until the 31st of March, 1865.

The Duke de Montebello has been appointed Ambassador of France at St. Petersburg, in place of Count Reyneval, who died just as he was about to depart on that mission.

The trial of Orsini and his accomplices (amongst whom Bernard is now included) is reported to be postponed to the end of the present month, in order to allow time for the translation into French, by sworn interpreters, of a great number of documents in the English and Italian languages. The number of persons wounded in the attempt of the 14th of Dec., was 156, of whom eight have died.

Marshal Pelissier is expected in a few days to be appointed governor of Paris, a post which existed under the first empire. The Minister of War seems to be thrown into the shade by all the changes, which, says rumour, are not completed yet.

M. Benedetti, director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has left Paris for London, on a special mission connected with the refugee question.

SPAIN.

Rumours of the impending establishment of a dictatorship are floating about at Madrid. On the 7th some sensation was occasioned there by the semi-official "Epoca" publishing a mysteriously-worded paragraph, in which it requests its readers not to be alarmed at efforts which are being made to subvert order, and warns the Liberal party that the only thing that can cause the establishment of a dictatorship in Spain is the existence of agitation. The "Espana" and other journals ask for an explanation of the paragraph. Rumours of modifications being likely to take place in the Cabinet, owing to the Minister of the Interior, M. Pastor Diaz, having resolved to resign, were also current. Riots have broken out in some places in Catalonia.

AUSTRIA.

The French Ambassador, M. de Bourqueney, has returned to Vienna. Last week he had an audience with the Emperor Francis-Joseph, to whom he delivered an autograph letter of his Sovereign. France, it is said, is exerting herself to achieve a reconciliation with Austria, and to weaken the influence which Sir Hamilton Seymour till now possessed at Vienna.

There is a report that the Emperor Francis-Joseph intends visiting the Court of Berlin, in order to personally congratulate the Prince and Princess Frederick-William on their happy union.

PRUSSIA.

ADVICES from Berlin state that, even in the midst of the *files* given on the occasion of the entry of Prince Frederick-William and the Princess Victoria, the question of the Regency seriously occupies the public mind. The different parliamentary factions have agreed not to bring the question before the two Chambers, but to wait for the Government to take the initiative of explanations. The Ministry will only be called on to make a statement in the event of their not giving it spontaneously.

An effort is being made to introduce parliamentary reform into Prussia. A motion regulating the electoral districts that choose representatives to the Chamber, and another limiting the duration of the Chamber to six years, have been presented to the Chamber of Deputies.

ITALY.

THE trial of the Sapi prisoners still engrosses attention. There is now no doubt that our countryman Watt has lost his reason. A commission of medical men was formed to examine him; their report is as follows:—

"We find—1. That on his arrival in this prison the accused attempted to cut his throat. 2. That he has exhibited various signs of mental aberration, such as distrust, suspicion, and fear of his best friends. 3. On long and accurate inquiry among his fellow-prisoners we hear that he is altogether a changed man from what he was. 4. We are of opinion that he should be confined in 'qualche luogo apposito,' and that some medical men devoted to the study of mental diseases should examine him, and report the result of their investigations as to whether his aberration is feigned or real."

The court accordingly "suspended all further proceedings until such time as certain *phrenologi* shall have decided on the state of Watt's mind—whether his aberration is feigned or real."

A report is circulated that despatches have been received by the Sardinian Chargé d'Affaires, directing him to insist on the immediate restitution of the *Cagliari* and the liberation of the crew, on the ground that the capture was illegal. It is further said that the demand made has been refused, and the refusal despatched to Turin.

Although there existed an understanding between the Pontifical and Austrian Governments that the troops of the latter Power should quit the Papal territories as soon as a sufficient Pontifical force could be organised, the Pope, intimidated by the late attempt upon the life of the Emperor of the French, is said to have declared to both the protecting Powers, France and Austria, that it would not only be necessary to prolong the occupation of the country by their troops, but also to restore them to their former effective strength.

The Inspector of Police of Ravenna has been murdered by two stabs from a pair of assassins.

The rejoicings of the Carnival commenced on the 6th, in spite of detestable weather, and were to last eight days. The Governor of Rome allowed masks to be worn in the streets for three of the eight days. This is the first time that the use of masks has been tolerated since the return of the Pope.

SWITZERLAND.

THE Federal Council has decided that the French and Italian refugees who reside at Geneva, and do not exercise any profession there, or who carry on political intrigues, shall be sent to some fixed residence. A Federal delegate has been charged to see to the execution of this resolution.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Porte has sent a circular note to its representatives abroad in which it supports the demand of France and England that the recent treaty on the navigation of the river Danube must be laid before the Paris Conference, saying that the Conference would be justified in enforcing alterations of the stipulations of that treaty. The note bears the date of the 26th of January.

The accounts from the insurgent districts in North-western Turkey are still unsatisfactory.

AMERICA.

THE Lecompton (Kansas) Constitution has been sent into Congress by Mr. Buchanan, accompanied by a message. The President states that a large portion of the people of Kansas have been in a state of actual rebellion ever since his inauguration, and that the Topeka Government is in direct opposition to the one presented and recognised by Congress. So far as regards slavery in Kansas, the President asserts that it exists in that territory by virtue of the constitution of the United States, and that Kansas is as much a slave state as Georgia or South Carolina. Mr. Buchanan advocates the speedy admission of Kansas as a State as the only means of restoring tranquillity to that distracted territory. An animated and exciting debate ensued in the Senate upon the motion to print the message, and much excitement and confusion prevailed.

It was said that Dr. Bernhisel, the Mormon delegate, had had several interviews with the President relative to the affairs in Utah. He proposed that the troops be withdrawn, and indicated the willingness of the Mormons to vacate Utah, and colonise on some of the islands of the sea outside the jurisdiction of the United States, provided the Government would purchase at a fair valuation the Salt Lake City improvements. "The President rejected rather than received the proposition."

Walker, the filibuster, in a speech at Mobile, said that, in October last, a confidential friend of his own had an interview with a member of the Cabinet, who said that the President approved of the Nicaragua enterprise. The member recommended Walker to enter into a treaty with Comofort, and become allied with Mexico; then to bring about a war with Spain, and seize Cuba. General Walker professed to have been shocked at the immorality of such a proposition—though he ingeniously acknowledged that his principal objection to it rested upon the fact that, in the event of success, Cuba would have become a free state.

THE FRENCH REGENCY.—The "Moniteur" states "that the measures recently taken to defend and consolidate the constitution were determined upon some time ago. The attack upon the Emperor has neither inspired nor aggravated those measures; they are addressed to but one category of criminals clearly defined. France, which has just witnessed the Empress's courage, knows that in the event of misfortune she would find in her another Blanche of Castile, ready to defend the rights of her son, and make of him a prince after God's heart."

EXPLOSION ON BOARD A STEAMER.—The North of Europe Steam Navigation Company's steamer St. George was on her homeward voyage from Sierra Leone, when, on nearing the St. Agnes Light, one of the firemen noticed that the crown of the starboard furnace had sunk to the bars, and was more than usually low. The attention of the chief engineer, Mr. Surtees, was called to this fact, which he thought threatened great danger, and told the captain so. The captain replied that he wanted steam only for twenty-four hours more, and pressed the engineer to keep it up if possible. On this, the engineer called the captain into the stokehold to satisfy himself that it was not safe. They were both looking at it, when the crown of the boiler gave way, and completely immersed both of them in scalding water, as also two of the firemen. The injuries the captain and engineer received were so great that they survived but a few hours. The steamer bore up for the nearest port, and reached St. Ives in the course of the evening, when the bodies of the captain and engineer were landed. An inquiry was instituted by the Receiver of Wrecks into the cause of the accident, and the destinations of all the crew were taken, and have since been forwarded to the Board of Trade. James Clark, the third engineer, states—"That he was aware that the boiler was in a dangerous state throughout the voyage, and heard the chief engineer remark that he had advised the captain to stop the steam, owing to the great risk, and that he feared the consequences. The engineer was indefatigable in his duty, and a clever man in his profession, but over-ruled by the captain against his own judgment."

BRIGADES AND RAILWAYS.—It would seem that the brigands of Italy are by no means disposed to give up their profession in consequence of the introduction of railways. A railroad, not more than nine miles in length, connects Rome with Frascati. On the 28th ult., an unusually large number of passengers, chiefly of the better class, had taken the train for the latter place; a circumstance, it appears, which the bandits of the neighbourhood were well aware of; for in the interval they surprised one of the signalmen in the most deserted spot of the line, and then hoisted a red flag as a signal of danger. The engine-driver, on approaching, saw the signal, and stopped the train; immediately two men sprang upon him, and secured him, while their confederates leisurely opened the doors of the railway carriages, and rifled the pockets of all within, without the slightest opposition. This operation completed, the train was allowed to continue its route.

VIRGINIAN CHIVALRY.—An extraordinary correspondence between a Mr. Ridgway, editor of the "Richmond Whig," and a Mr. Wise, son of the governor of Virginia, has been published. Mr. Ridgway makes the following proposition to Mr. Wise:—"I propose that you and I select only one friend each, and with one pair of pistols we shall all meet in your office or mine, at an hour to be hereafter designated—that after thus meeting and the door being locked, you and I shall be securely blindfolded—that then the seconds shall load one of the pistols and leave the other unloaded—that they shall next determine by lot the choice of pistols—that the pistols shall then be handed to us, and that yours shall be placed directly against my breast, and mine against yours—that next, and finally, at the giving of the word, we shall both pull trigger, and let the consequences take care of themselves." This savage proposal is rejected by Mr. Wise—not on any moral ground, but because it is in violation of the "code." Mr. Ridgway, in his rejoinder, says that Mr. Wise himself violated that "code" when he perpetrated an act of personal violence with his cane. Mr. Ridgway takes advantage of this point, and for the reason that his adversary has infringed the rules of the "code," and thereby "disregarded the usage that obtains among gentlemen," declines all further correspondence. Mr. Ridgway submits a history of the whole affair to the public, and, in his own comments thereon, has the coolness to assert that his murderous proposition "amounted simply to an appeal to Providence and the right of the case."

MASSACRE BY AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.—Numerous murders have been committed at Moreton Bay by the aboriginal Australians. Of twelve persons residing on the station of Mrs. Fraser, at Hornet Bank, on the Upper Dawson, eleven were barbarously murdered. One only escaped. From the statements of the survivor, Sylvester Fraser, a youth about fifteen, it appears that the house was surrounded by about 100 armed blacks. They obtained an entrance; Sylvester Fraser seized a gun and presented it at one of them, when he was disabled by a blow from a waddie; however, he contrived to secrete himself beneath the bed. His three brothers were then killed, either while still sleeping, or before they had time to arise. The murderers then proceeded to a hut close by, and despatched the two shepherds who were living there. Mrs. Fraser and her daughters were afterwards drawn from the house under promise of security; but after being subjected to gross insult and cruelty, they also were slaughtered—the youngest girl being only four years old, the eldest about twenty. The savages then stripped the house of such things as they desired, and, taking with them a flock of sheep, departed. As soon as they were fairly off, young Fraser left his perilous position, and hastened to Eecoombah Station, where he met with a detachment of native police. Pursuit was promptly given to the fugitives, who were overtaken after a journey of about ten miles; but they made a precipitate retreat into the scrub, and so escaped.

THE CLIMAX OF HORRORS.—An Indian newspaper has the following reference to the sergeant-major who joined the Delhi rebels. It seems too horrible to be true:—"We have often wondered how the rancorous mutineers brought themselves to trust among them a European—Sergeant-Major Gordon, of the late 28th N.I. But what has now been learnt by visitors to Delhi explains the mystery. The price of his infatuated apostasy was not simply abjuring Christianity, spurning the true religion, countenancing his God, and embracing the false faith of Mahomet; but in heavy addition, the perpetration of a damnable, diabolical crime, the cool and deliberate murder, before the eyes of the gloating savages, of his poor wife and children, by his own bloody hands."

HAVELOCK'S MONUMENT.—The Government have granted a site in Trafalgar Square for a statue to the late Sir Henry Havelock. It will stand on the east side of the Nelson column, so that Nelson will be flanked by two Indian officers, Napier and Havelock. The monument, which will consist of a full-length statue, will be supported by a handsome base, on which will be given a full notice of those regiments which took so gallant a part with the deceased General in the glorious relief of Candahar and Lucknow. The names of the officers who accompanied General Havelock through the memorable struggle will also be recorded on the base of the monument.

INDIA.

RECENT telegrams from India confirm the intelligence of the capture of Furruckabad and Futtayghur by Sir Colin Campbell. The Commander-in-Chief, having marched towards Futtayghur, was opposed by the rebels at the bridge over the Kallee Nuddee; he attacked and defeated them on the 2nd of January, with heavy loss, capturing 12 guns, two of them 18-pounders. Futtayghur was occupied after their defeat on the 4th of January; the enemy having now changed their position after their defeat on the 2nd, taking with them three guns. The guns were found in position. Much property belonging to the government clothing agencies has been saved. The Nawab fled across the Ganges into Rohileund, whither Sir Colin was about to follow him. After the subjugation of Rohileund, the Commander-in-Chief was to advance again upon Lucknow.

The force under Sir James Outram at Alumbagh, 4,000 strong, was attacked by the enemy on the 22nd of December, on the 12th of January, and again on the 16th of January, when, on each occasion, the insurgents were defeated with heavy loss of men and guns, and almost without a casualty on our side. In the last-mentioned engagement the leader of the rebels, a Hindoo fanatic, was wounded and taken prisoner.

A quantity of gold and silver plate and other property belonging to the Nena has been captured near Bhitoor.

Colonel Seaton's victories are also confirmed. "The insurgents at Puttia were attacked and dispersed by Colonel Seaton's column on the 17th of December. Twelve guns were captured, and 300 rebels killed. We lost one man only. The enemy was also defeated at Mynpore by Colonel Seaton's column on the 27th of December; all their guns were taken, and 250 killed; none reported killed on our side."

The Bhowal Contingent were disarmed on the 9th of January. Schore, by the force under General Rose. One hundred and fifty of the mutineers were tried and shot on the 12th. Sir Robert Hamilton and Sir Hugh Rose, with the Central India Field Force, were on their way to Saugor. The Kamptee column was also advancing on Saugor.

A strong column, under Brigadier Roberts, was moving from Deos into Rajpootana. The first detachment, under Major Rains, captured an insurgent stronghold near Mount Abo, subsequently proceeding to Nussersabad. Other forces were advancing to join them.

The Dacca mutineers crossed the Teesta river, and made way through dense jungles into Nepal. A Goorkha regiment had been sent against them by Jung Bahadur, and it was supposed they would fall back again to the eastward. The Goorkha army has been most orderly and well conducted, and the villagers flock to the camp in numbers with supplies.

The Goruckpore rebels were attacked and defeated by Rose's column on the 26th of December at Solunpore, losing three guns and all their ammunition baggage, with one casualty on our side.

The Chittagong mutineers were wandering about in the Kachar jungles; many had been killed and captured by the Sylhet Light Infantry and the Kookies.

Captain Osborne, with the troops of the Rewah Rajah, took the city of Myhere by storm on the 28th of December, capturing two guns. The fort of Myhere was taken on the 3rd of January.

General Whitehead's force was at Nagpore. The village of the rebellious Thakur of Rewa was attacked, and, after an obstinate resistance, taken and burnt on the 6th of January.

Troops were being pushed through Seinde into the Punjab; and it was calculated that in the course of a fortnight Sir J. Lawrence would have obtained a reinforcement of 3,000 to 4,000 men. He had already provided horses at Lahore to mount the cavalry on their arrival. The Punjab and all quiet, with the exception of Kandahar. The Rheels assembled in force near the Nizam's frontier, and were attacked, on Jan. 20, by Captain Montgomery in the Minder Jumla-Aroum. An indecisive contest ensued, in which Captain Montgomery and three other officers were severely wounded, one of whom, Lieutenant Stewart, of the Nizam's Infantry, since died of his wounds. Our total loss is stated to be fifty rank and file.

The papers state that the country all over is being tranquillised by degrees; but a vast amount of work has still to be performed.

A portion of the ladies and wounded of the Lucknow garrison had arrived in Calcutta.

THE CANNON AFFAIR.

Sir Colin Campbell has transmitted the following supplementary despatch to the Governor-General:—

"I have the honour to bring to your Lordship's notice an omission, which I have to regret, in my despatch of the 2nd of December, and I beg to be allowed now to repair it. I desire to make my acknowledgments of the difficulties in which Major-General Windham, C.B., was placed during the operations he describes in his despatch, and to recommend him and the officers whom he notices as having rendered him assistance, to your Lordship's protection and good offices. I may mention, in conclusion, that Major-General Windham is ignorant of the contents of my despatch of the 2nd of December, and that I am prompted to take this step solely as a matter of justice to the Major-General and the other officers concerned."

The Governor-General has followed this up by the general order here given:—

"The Right Hon. the Governor-General in Council has received the accompanying despatch from his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and has resolved to give publicity to it. It supplies an omission in a previous despatch from his Excellency, which was printed in the 'Gazette Extraordinary' of the 21st inst. Major-General Windham's reputation as a leader of conspicuous bravery and coolness, and the reputation of the gallant force which he commanded, will have lost nothing from an accidental omission such as General Sir Colin Campbell has occasion to regret. But the Governor-General in Council will not fail to bring to the notice of the Government in England the opinion formed by his Excellency of the difficulties against which Major-General Windham, with the officers and men under his orders, had to contend."

THE LUCKNOW GARRISON.

In anticipation of the arrival at Calcutta of the Europeans so long pent-up in Lucknow, an official notification was published, suggesting that "the best welcome which can be tendered on such an occasion is one which will break in as little as possible upon privacy and rest."

"But the rescue of these sufferers is a victory beyond all price, and in testimony of the public joy with which it is hailed, and of the admiration with which their heroic endurance and courage have been viewed, the Right Hon. the Governor-General in Council directs that upon the approach of the Madras to Princeps Ghat a royal salute shall be fired from the ramparts of Fort William. The Governor-General in Council further directs that all ships of war in the river shall be dressed in honour of the day. Officers will be appointed to conduct the passengers on shore, and the state barges of the Governor-General will be in attendance."

Accordingly, when, on the 8th of January, the *Madras* arrived at Calcutta, with the women, the children, and the sick from Lucknow, they were received with a ceremony almost solemn. "Cheers were given at first, but only slowly responded to, people evidently being too much occupied with their own reflections to think of cheering; but as the ladies and children proceeded up, people doffed their hats almost mechanically, silently looking on as the heroines passed up. The black dresses of most of the ladies told the tale of their brave and weary, whilst the pallid faces, the downcast looks, and the slow walk, bore evidence of the great sufferings they must have undergone both in mind and body."

All the vessels at Princep Ghat—except the Americans—were dressed in their flags.

RECOVERED CAPTURE OF NENA SAHIB.—The following is extracted from a private letter, "written by a gentleman of the highest respectability at Calcutta." It is dated January 9:—"Nena Sahib was taken by Outram on the 2nd instant—or the telegraph got here then. Some of our officers were taken, and offers were made by the enemy of ransom, and Outram made reference to the Governor-General on the subject. The reply was, that ransom could not be listened to; but no orders as to the disposal of the Nena were sent, so that it may involve another reference."

OUR INDIAN ARMY.—A Parliamentary paper gives a detailed statement of the actual force that was in India at the time of the outbreak of the mutiny at Meerut. In the Bengal Presidency there were of Europeans, 2,271 officers, 1,602 sergeants, and 18,815 rank and file, of whom about 1,800 were in Pegu. The native troops numbered 2,325 officers, 5,821 havildars, and 110,517 rank and file. The total number of sick was 4,781. In Madras the total force of Europeans was 10,194; of natives, 49,737. In Bombay the European troops, 9,589, and natives, 30,440.

BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

The "Times" correspondent supplies us with some information—incomplete, but very interesting—as to the bombardment of Canton. He thus describes the

APPROACH TO THE CITY.

"It was on Saturday, the 19th of December, that I had my first near view of Canton. We went on and on till the confused mass of lights separated into individual twinkles. We were so close that I could see a Chinese lantern through the sight of a rifle when we dropped anchor and the ship swung round to the tide. The splash of oars and the hail of the watch, and lights dotted here and there, told that other ships were around us; but nothing more of this mysterious enemies' country was visible through the murky night.

"Day dawned. We rubbed our eyes, and the first sensation is to expect to hear the swish of a shower of grape. We are in the middle of the hostile city. We are anchored, it is true, off the western point of Honan, just where the river breaks into two streams to form the island. We look down the channel which divides Honan from Canton. But Honan and Canton banks are almost equally covered with buildings; the channel is not really 300 yards wide—it does not appear to be twenty feet. A thin, meandering line is all the water we can see; the rest is covered by boats—not boats such as we see on the Isis, at the bottom of Christ Church meadows, nor even barges such as we see upon the Thames, but wooden house-like structures. Some are gay, flaunting flower boats, belidized with paint and hung within with lanterns and lustres. Some are Mandarin passage-boats, with high prows and elaborate carvings. The great mass, however, consists of floating huts and houses, some two storeys high, and covered cargo boats.

"Our little squadron steams and fumes (situated just as if we were a dozen vessels in Chelsea Reach, and the river towards London Bridge crowded as I have said), and the *Cruiser*, in obedience to a signal from the *Comandante*, detaches herself, and proceeds into the little thread of channel. There is a flutter and a panic among the dwellers upon the water. The outside boats cast off, and the strong tide drifts them rapidly away before our steamer. How it happens that the channel is not hopelessly blocked we cannot imagine. But the current is very swift: down they go, and the channel is wider by their removal. Then another tier, and another, and another is detached, and the tide sweeps them still more rapidly away. And now the channel is clear: we have an uninterrupted view along it. It is not nearly so wide as the Thames at Wapping, and moreover there are no bridges to interrupt the line of sight; but the buildings on each side are much of the same character as those at Wapping and Rotherhithe—the warehouses of Honan on the right, the low buildings of Canton on the left. The steamer passes through, and others follow. They cast anchor in mid-stream and make themselves snug and comfortable, as if they were at Spithead. Imagine a row of ships of war moored stem and stern broadside to the shore at the Tower stairs and half a mile up and down the stream, and you will have some idea of the position of the *Nimrod*, the *Hornet*, the *Cruiser*, the *Bittern*, the *Acteon*, and the *Acorn*. Half an hour after they had anchored, the gunboats were running up and down, and the gigs, and cutters, and dingies were rowing to and fro, and the Chinamen were going from boat to boat with oranges and bananas for sale, as though we had been settled here for a lifetime."

LANDING ON THE ISLAND OF HONAN.

"Having thus satisfactorily settled matters on the river, let us go ashore. Not to that left-hand shore, to which you might jerk a biscuit from this poop now swinging to the tide, for our deaths are worth dollars there. On the Honan side there are broad stone landing-places and ranges of warehouses, which by right of conquest belong to us. There is a small Union Jack upon the roof of one of these, and a larger tricolour upon another. Here, then, let us land.

"We are scarcely landed before we are swept into the tide of human beings which rushes and eddies in this narrow lane. The warehouses to the left are all open; let us take refuge in one of them. It is a strongly-built brick building more than 200 feet long by 100 feet broad. At the other end there is a doorway leading to the river, and a loft divided off into compartments. This storehouse is about thirty feet high, and its roof is supported by rows of square brick pillars. It offers a great area with comfortable accommodation for a numerous body of troops. More than half-a-mile of river front is occupied by these pack-houses; and when we have filled all these, there are plenty more upon the island. One is already occupied by a battalion of Marines. Nice beds of junk matting have been made up along the sides of the building, arms and accoutrements are hung upon the walls and pillars, and in the central parts of the area the men are squatting or loling round their cooking fires and frizzling their rations."

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF CANTON AND THE RIVER.

"Some of us pass the rest of the day on the angular roof of the highest pack-house, and look down on the river and the city. There is nothing picturesque about the view of Canton. No domes and minarets rise from the mass of habitations. No lofty temples, no high monuments, represent historic memories and immortal aspirations. The far-stretching dull level of gray roofs is broken only by the square pawn-brokers' warehouses (just like the warehouses in our docks); by the little watchboxes erected upon high scaffolding of bamboo, and looking like multitudes of pigeon-houses; by a few Mandarin poles, and by the mountains and hill forts behind the city. Away to the left this plain of roofs stretches to the horizon. In the foreground, almost at our feet, lie the waterside houses, almost hovels, and generally built on piles. Masked by these, and only visible on close inspection, are the outer walls of the city. Now and then you can see an embrasure, and the march of a Chinese sentry shows the continuity of the wall. The first discharge of the Chinese guns will topple down the rickety buildings and show the strength or weakness of the outworks. It will also, as our naval friends take care to inform us, knock all our pack-houses 'into a cocked hat.'

"The river swarms with gunboats, all freighted with closely-packed red-coats—a terrible sight for the gazing crowds opposite. These gunboats come up at full speed, disembark their men at the river entrance of the proper pack-house, and in half-an-hour that pack-house becomes a comfortable barracks. Those Marines, however, are not so jolly. They are fresh from England, with ruddy faces and sweet blood on the surface of their skins. They are turtle and venison to the Chinese mosquitoes. These despicable enemies have bugged up some eyes and blotched many faces. How the Marines do swear!"

MRS. BROWN.

"A tedious day brings a weary night. There are all sorts of 'shaves' about night attacks, mines under the pack-houses, fire-rafts, and such like amenities. But my real enemies are the mosquitoes and the Browns. Just as intense fatigue overcomes the mosquito bites, I am startled by loud voices which every half-hour hold this dialogue:—

"Who goes there?"

"Brown."

"What Brown?"

"Mrs. Brown."

"Halt, Mrs. Brown; advance one, and give parol."

"Confound this family of Browns! It's a shame of Colonel Holloway to allow women in a place like this, and especially such a restless animal as this Mrs. Brown. She has kept 2,000 men awake all night."

"At breakfast next morning, I inveighed indignantly against Mrs. Brown. My messmates with some merit insist that the respectable name of Brown is not in fault. I suppose I must take their words for it that the dialogue runs—'Who goes there?' 'Browns.' 'What rounds?' 'Visiting rounds.' 'Halt visiting rounds; advance one, and give the parol.' But I could still swear any Brown's life away upon the evidence of my ears."

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ATTACK.

"December 22.—Yesterday and to-day, all day long, up and down the river. With a revolver in our pockets we do not hesitate to trust ourselves to a Chinese sampan. I pass hours in watching the Sappers and Miners laying the platforms for two 13-inch mortars on the islet called Dutch Folly, and for two others on the peninsula called French

Folly, about a mile further down the river. How beautifully these men (aided by the crews of the *Cruiser*, the *Nimrod* and the *Hornet*) throw up their breastwork among these ruins of the old forts, and how cunningly and quickly they construct their magazine! Chinese guns are pointed on the spot, and riflemen are perched on the stones about us to return their fire should it open. But Yeh did not disturb us.

"Captain Dew has arranged a barrel which hoists up to the truck of his mainmast. From that elevated and uncomfortable spot I could see into the court-yard of Yeh's yamun. Two Mrs. Yehs were hobbling about quite cheerily, but I think I saw signs of removal."

PROCLAMATION TO THE INHABITANTS OF CANTON.

"The 23rd and the 24th were occupied in making reconnaissances of the city, and 'proclamations' were distributed along the Canton shore, warning the inhabitants that Yeh had rejected the terms offered, and that if the city were not surrendered within forty-eight hours it would be bombarded and stormed. The time of issuing this proclamation was chosen so that it might expire on Saturday night. Sunday then intervenes, and thus gives the people some more hours to clear out and the authorities more time to look at our preparations, and make up their minds as to the futility of resistance."

The dangerous task of distributing these proclamations was confided to Captain Hall and Mr. Parkes. "They land a strongly-armed company suddenly in a suburb, and post up the proclamation or distribute it to the crowd which soon assembles. In one of these rapid descents, Captain Hall caught a mandarin in his chair, not far from the outer gate. The Captain pasted the mandarin up in his chair with the barbarian papers, pasted the chair all over with them, and started the bearers to carry this new advertising van into the city. The Chinese crowd, always alive to a practical joke, roared. These belligerent bill-stickers have brought off some Chinese counter-proclamations. Arrogant to the last, these papers say that the rebellious English having seduced the French to join in this rebellion, it becomes necessary to stop the trade altogether, and utterly to annihilate these barbarians."

THE BOMBARDMENT AND ASSAULT.

"It is five o'clock in the morning, and the north wind whistles through the shrouds, and it is thick darkness as we climb the rigging to the main top of her Majesty's ship—

"Yeh knows what must happen at daybreak. It has been told throughout the fleet, it has been intentionally allowed to be known to the bumboat-men, and all who have communication with the opposite shore, that the bombardment will commence at daybreak."

"A cheer tells me that, not in the dawn but in the less thick darkness, up goes the white ensign to the main of the *Acteon*, and at the same moment a yellow flag flies on the main of the *Phlegethon*. I expected at that moment to hear a concussion that should have shaken the earth. Not so. A dropping fire, gun by gun, runs along the line. Some minutes elapse, and the light strengthens. Then off goes one of the mortars upon Dutch Folly. It is fired upon Gough Fort. The whistling shell speeds high over the city, but does not reach its object. At its highest elevation—far, far away—it puffs forth in a thin white cloud.

"Slow and continuous, with a sombre monotony, like the firing of minute guns, the cannonade continues. No broadsides, no quick firing, no excitement. Every gun is accurately pointed after many minutes' care to strike or sweep the appointed wall, and to avoid the habitations. The shells are not so obedient as the round shot. What the opposing guns are doing we cannot see, for the smoke gathers thick below us, and the big guns seem to have brought down the wind. Vainly do the mortar shells strive to reach those hill forts, which seem to be sleeping in tranquil security against the cold gray sky. They all fall short. That red five-storeyed barn, which is called the five-storeyed pagoda, and which is said to be the barrack of 500 Tartars, was nearly touched. A shell burst half-way up the hill. But Gough Fort has never yet been approached. Some who have keener sight than I have, say that the Chinese are endeavouring to bring their monster guns to bear this way. The morning wears on and the smoke thickens, and still this dull monotonous minute-gun sound continues. Still no sign of surrender. These strange Chinese actually seem to be getting used to it. Sampan and even cargo-boats are moving down the river like London lightermen in the ordinary exercise of their calling; people are coming down to the bank, and watch the shot and shell fly over their heads. Even the great kites which hover about all day have returned, and are circling above the smoke."

"Now the gunboats leave their stations, embark the troops, and hurry down the river to the landing place at Kuper Creek. A strong body has already landed, and through my glass I can distinctly see the General and his Staff, protected by a party of blue-jackets and red-coats, crouched on the ground, and pushing a close reconnaissance to Fort Lin."

"So near did the reconnoitring party advance without any appearance of defenders, that we imagined the fort must be deserted. I suppose, however, the General had reason to think otherwise, for the 59th and the Artillery were ordered up, and were posted in the broken ground to the left, while some of the Naval Brigade and Marines, who had now formed upon a hill-side, were advanced into the village on the right of the fort. Immediately this movement took place, some matting which covered a square building on the top of the round stone fort was removed, and three guns from the lower embrasures and a volley from gignalls on the top soon told that the place was occupied. Our men were well under cover, and skirmishers were pushed forward, who with the deadly Enfield made it dangerous for the gunners to appear in their large embrasures. They continued their fire, however, with great pertinacity, until the nine-pounder field-pieces were got into position and battered and shelled the place (from the village side and across the ravine which separates the village from the fort) at close quarters. A storming party was now formed, but the Chinamen had had enough of it, and after firing a general volley at the advancing column, they absconded in some mysterious way and were seen swarming up the hill towards Gough Fort; a moment after, and two men appeared in the embrasures waving the English and French flags."

"About an hour after the fort had been in our possession it blew up with a loud explosion. The occupying party and also the troops encamped on the hill-side were put in motion, ascended the hill, and descended on the other side. There we lost sight of them. Volleys of musketry and flights of rockets continued in that direction for several hours, and there was all the appearance of an obstinate fight, which lasted till sundown."

"Then came the night—and such a night! The ships almost ceased from their firing, but the city soon became like our own Shropshire iron countries at night—a plain of fire. At first it appeared as though the besiegers were bent upon reducing the place to ashes; but little by little, as I gained by a change of position some idea of the scene as a whole, the destruction was not without a plan. There was a great blaze at the north-west angle of the city. The gate there is surmounted by a Chinese guard-house, with the usual grotesque upward-pointed roof. Shells and rockets were poured in volleys upon this structure, and it soon became a sheet of flame, through which the roof, the rafters, and the walls stood out in dark outline. By constant showers of rockets the flame was led up and down the city wall, and in an incredibly short time the long thin line of fire shot high into the heavens, and then subsided into a smouldering smoke."

"While this was still raging, thosevengeful rockets described a new parabola. They came hurtling through the moonlight along the line of the eastern wall. They sought out the three spots which have been marked as the objects of the triple assault of the English and French troops to-morrow. As these dreadful 24-pound rockets flew, flames arose. They seemed to lead the fire about as a tune element precisely as they willed; and, strange to say, it never seemed to spread inwards or to stray from the line of the city walls. I expect that when, at some more convenient season, I come to see the interior, I shall find that all the conflagrations we have been watching to-night with an awe-stricken pity have destroyed only that line of old houses which Kant against the inner side of the wall and afforded cover to those gignalls whence all our great losses in affairs with the Chinese have arisen."

"All night the city was girt by a line of flame. The approach of morning was indicated by a suspension of the rocket practice, and by the re-opening of the mortar battery with redoubled energy. As the day broke, the flames sank down and the sun rose upon a perfectly smokeless city."

"The charges of powder must have been increased in the mortar batteries, for the shells now flew high up to the hill forts. One of them at daybreak burst upon an embrasure of Fort Gough, and another went right over it. The ships that had been enfilading the eastern wall now ceased firing. It was the moment for the assault. In the neighbourhood of the east fort the three divisions formed, and the rush was made. For two hours nothing is visible but smoke—nothing is heard but the rattle of musketry and loud cheering. At eight o'clock the wall is gained, and I see the blue-jackets, English and French, racing along it northwards. Gough's Fort gives out its fire, let us hope without effect, but, well-served, its guns might sweep the wall. There is a check and silence for half an hour. I can recognise the blue trousers of one of the divisions of our naval brigade. The leaders are probably teaching them how to take that five-storeyed pagoda upon the north-western wall. Along the city wall, and protected by its battlements, they pass, I think, unscathed, the fire from Gough Fort away to their right, and come in front of a gleaming white battery, newly built, and full of guns, erected upon a ledge of the rock upon which the wall and the five-storeyed pagoda here stand. If the assailants would only go to a proper distance, how these guns would riddle them! But with a rush and a cheer a detachment strikes from the cover of the wall, which the guns do not command, and houses itself safely at the foot of the very rock which bears the battery. Not a shot can it fire. The riflemen from the walls now ply this half-moon for some minutes, and in a quarter of an hour the detachment at the foot of the rock has gone round and taken the position from behind. Relieved from these guns, which might have swept them down by hundreds, our men in serried masses are now swarming along the wall. The five-storeyed pagoda (which is no more a pagoda, according to our notion of a pagoda, than it is a bum-boat, but an old square red building divided into storeys) is carried by the bayonet, and the French and English colours are hoisted simultaneously. Now, Gough's Fort opens out sulkily upon its late ally; but the assailants, not waiting to reply, hurry along the intervening wall westward. I can follow them for some time from my position, and I hear them cheering when I lose them in the hollow. A few minutes of sharp fusillade, and blue-jackets emerge from the trees and buildings upon Magazine Hill. A moment after, and up go the two bits of bunting which tell that this key of Canton is our own."

"In four hours, the hill defences of this city have been captured; for Gough's Fort is also assaulted and taken."

"The whole of the operations have been conducted with a view to occasion the smallest possible sacrifice of life, and especially of the lives of our own men and of our allies. We may hope, therefore, that the victory will be a cheap one. I purposely refrain from repeating any of the rumours that are flying about as to deaths and wounds, but I may state it as within my own knowledge that Captain Bate was killed while superintending the placing of the scaling-ladders. Captain Hackett was also killed, and Lord Gilford is wounded in the arm. How many others are lost it is impossible to say. The Chinamen are still shooting at our men from the tops of the houses, and if this goes on I fear it will be necessary to treat the city less tenderly than hitherto."

Here the mail-bag swallowed the letter.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

Official despatches have been received. They say that "All our efforts to avert the evils of war from the Chinese having failed, through the obstinate determination which has characterised the proceedings of the Imperial Commissioner from October 21, 1856, nothing remained for the commanders of the allied forces but to address the Imperial Commissioner, and to carry into execution the painful alternative of attacking Canton." The *Acteon*, *Phlegethon*, and gunboats opened fire on the south-west angles of the city wall, with a view to breach them, and impede the communication of the Chinese troops along their parapets to the eastward."

The *Mitraille*, *Fusée*, *Cruiser*, *Hornet*, and a gunboat were employed in breaching the city walls opposite the viceroy's residence; the mortars in the Dutch Folly, and the *Niger* and *Acatanche*, likewise shelling the city heights and Gough heights. The *Nimrod*, *Sarprise*, *Dragon*, *Marceau*, and gunboats opened fire on the south-east angles of the new and old city walls, and the walls forming the east side of the city. The bombardment was in "slow time," and the assault successful. A despatch, dated December 29, says: "Canton City was escalated and captured this day at nine o'clock, with a more trifling loss than could have been expected. Great emulation was displayed by the whole allied force, amongst whom the greatest cordiality and good feeling exists."

THE RIVER POPULATION OF CANTON.

An immense number of the Cantonese spend their existence wholly on the river. Some of the boats which swarm along the banks are permanently anchored, and to these others of all dimensions and of indescribable forms are moored. Some of these vessels are built like houses; and there are regularly established floating shops, for the accommodation of the river population. The pleasure-boats are often very handsomely decorated; resplendent with gilding, elegantly carved, and embellished with delicate lattice-work. At night the river presents a most fantastic spectacle. Fleets of these river habitations, hung round with lanterns, cruise about incessantly, without ever fouling each other. The skill of their occupants in this respect is really admirable; you see at once that they are an aquatic population—born, living, and dying on the water."

Women usually manage the boats, for which they have such a capacity that they are often trusted to steer the largest junks. Nor are they remarkable for expert rowing and steering alone, but for their general usefulness also. However, they have commonly one recommendation for the lovers of the beautiful—white, regular teeth. As for their morals, they are not nearly so regular. The Canton boat-women usually wear a cloth kerchief tied about their heads, and a baby slung at their backs, sometimes."

The aquatic tendencies of the Chinese are naturally attended by a great love for the water-lily, which, indeed, has always been a favourite in China. Poets have celebrated it: the Doctors of Reason number it amongst the ingredients necessary for the elixir of immortality, and economists praise it for its utility."

"This plant," says the Abbe Hue, "commonly called in China *lien-hoa*, has broad rounded leaves, scolloped at the edges, fleshy, full of veins, and sloping to the middle; some swim on the surface of the water, others rise above it to different heights. They are of a tender green on the upper surface, rather darker underneath, and supported by long stalks spotted with black."

"The flowers of the water-lily have numerous petals, disposed in such a manner that when they are not completely open you might take them for large tulips; afterwards they expand into a rose-like form. In the middle of the flower is a large conical pistil, which becomes a rounded, spongy fruit, divided throughout its length into cells full of oblong seeds, enveloped in a kind of shell like the acorn, and composed like it of two white lobes, between which is the germ. The stamens are very delicate filaments terminating in violet-coloured anthers."

"The Chinese distinguish four kinds of water-lily—the yellow, the white, the red, and the pink, the three latter sometimes with single flowers, sometimes with double. This plant may be propagated by seeds, but more easily and rapidly by roots; it does not require any kind of culture, and there is nothing comparable to the effect produced by this splendid flower on the ponds and basins of China. It does not bud till towards the end of May, but its germination is very rapid, and its great leaves lying on the surface of the water or raised ma-

jestically to various heights, form a covering of most exquisite verdure, the beauty of which is of course enhanced, when it is enamelled by flowers of various dyes. They are larger than poppies, and their dazzling tints are beautifully relieved by the green leaves. The young Chinese poets are particularly fond of celebrating the beauty of the water-lily gleaming in the moonlight as the boats row about the basins illumined by swarms of glow-worms and fire-flies.

"The water-lily is very remarkable, too, in a utilitarian point of view. Its seeds are eaten as nuts are in Europe, and boiled in sugar

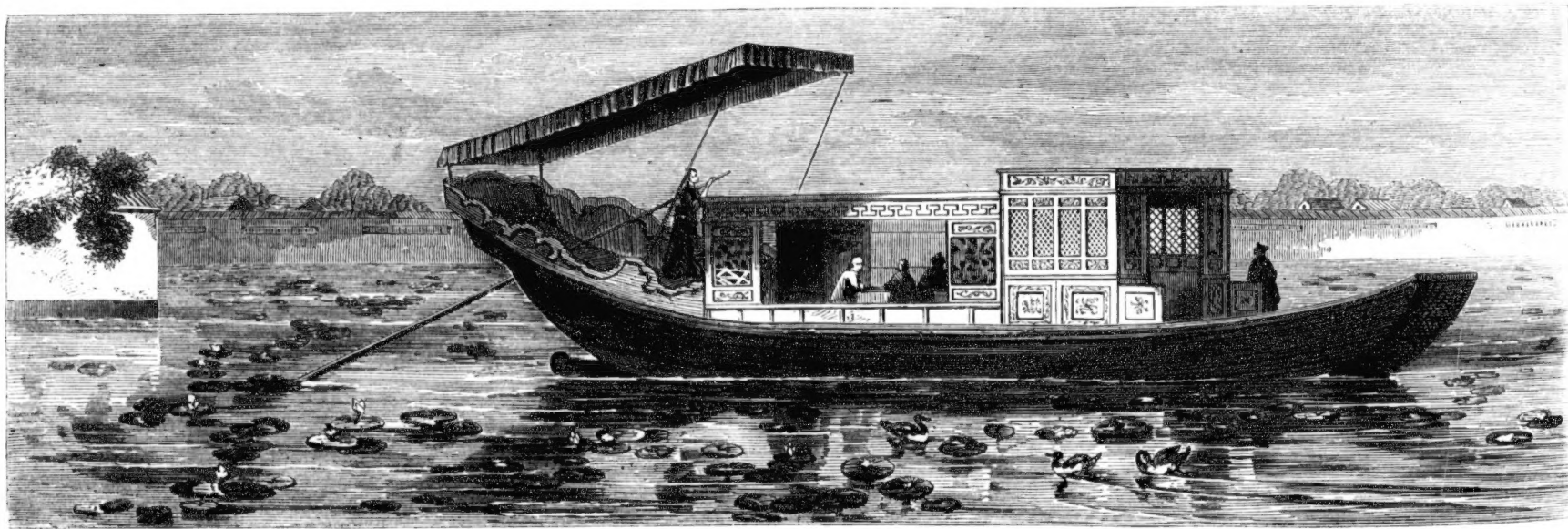
and water they are considered delicious by epicures. The gigantic root is a great resource for culinary preparations, and in whatever way it is dressed, it is always excellent and wholesome. The Chinese pickle great quantities of it with salt and vinegar, to eat with rice; reduced to a powder, it is extremely agreeable when boiled with milk or water, and in the summer it is eaten raw like fruit, and is very refreshing. Finally, the leaves are constantly made use of instead of paper for wrapping up all kinds of things, and when dried are often mixed with tobacco, to render it a little milder."



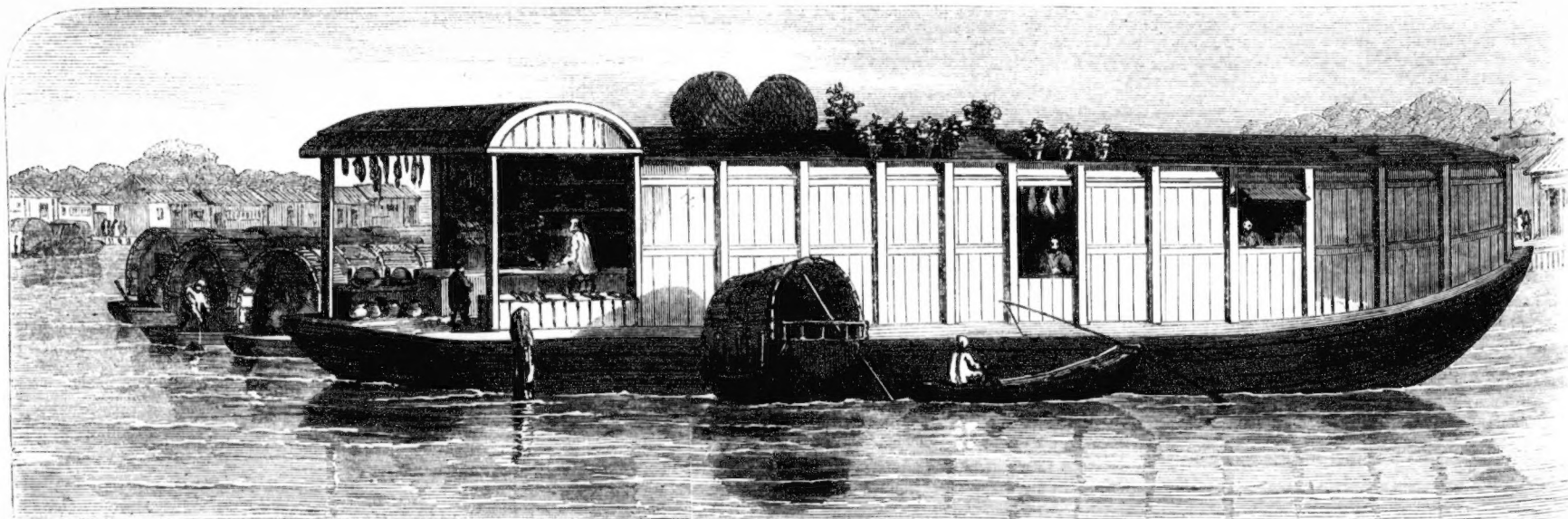
CHINESE BOAT-GIRL ROWING A SANPAN.



CHINESE BOAT-GIRL STEERING A SANPAN.



CHINESE PLEASURE-BOAT.



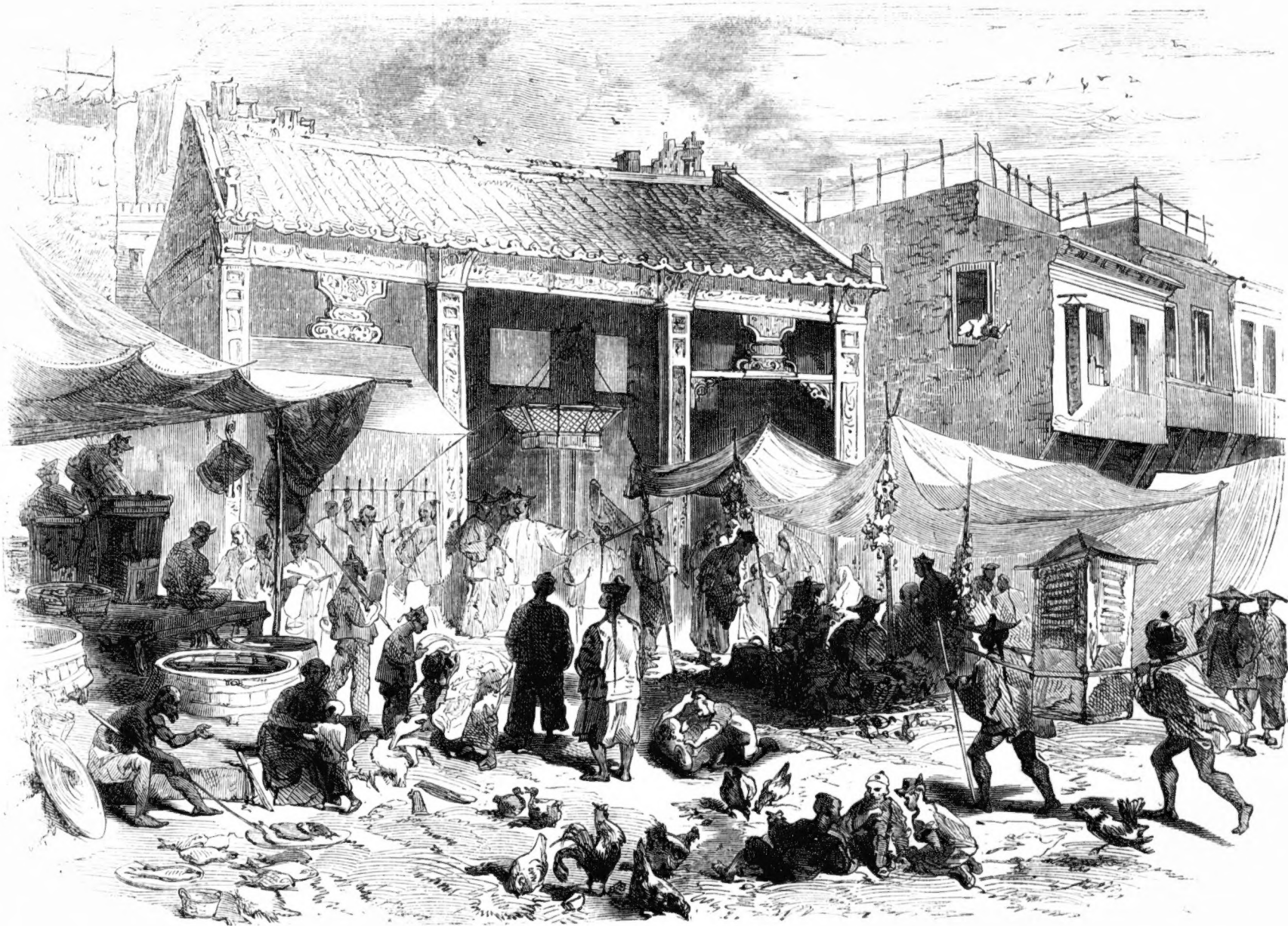
CHINESE SHOP-BOAT, OR GENERAL STORE.



HONG-KONG.

HONG-KONG.

The island of Hong-kong, of which a view is given above, is one of a group situated at the mouth of the Canton river, distant about 37 miles from Macao, and 100 miles from Canton. It is separated from the main land of China by a narrow strait, which varies in width from less than a mile to four or five miles. The length of the island from east to west is about eight miles; but its breadth is very irregular, varying from two to six miles. The coast-line forms a succession of small bays and headlands. In Hong-kong Roads and Victoria Harbour is excellent anchorage, both opposite the town of Victoria. There is deep water for a man-of-war within a cable's length of the shore. The harbour lies between the mountains of Hong-kong and those of the



THE MARKET-PLACE AT CANTON.

mainland, yet is exposed to the violence of typhoons. The northern side of the island is traversed by a ridge of mountains which vary in height from 500 feet to upwards of 1,000 feet. They present a steep declivity towards the coast, and their base approaches nearly to the edge of the sea. Mount Victoria is said to be 1,827 feet high; and Mount Gough, 1,575 feet. These two mountains immediately overlook the town and harbour of Victoria. The elevation of Mount Parker, at the other or eastern end of the island, is said to be 1,711 feet. The mountains furnish a supply of excellent granite for building; and there are numerous quarries, which are skillfully worked by Chinese labourers. The southern side of the island is much less rugged, and consists of an undulating surface with occasional portions of flat land. The total quantity of land suitable for cultivation is small, and the greater part of it is in one valley. Deep ravines extend from the interior towards the sea, and furnish a constant supply of good water.

Hong-kong was taken possession of by the British during the war with China. The cession of the island formed one of the conditions of the treaty of peace negotiated by Captain Elliot and Keshen, which the Emperor assented to; but the British continued to hold the island, and by the treaty of Nankin, signed August 30th, 1842, they gave up the island of Chusan, and Hong-kong was ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain. On the 26th of June, 1843, Hong-kong was regularly constituted a British colony. It is what is called a Crown colony—that is, it has no legislative assembly, but is governed by orders from the Colonial Office at home. There is a legislative and executive council to aid the governor with assistance and advice. The governor, as superintendent of trade, is head of the consular establishments at the five ports opened in pursuance of the Treaty of Nankin. The offices of the Government are at Victoria. There are a chief justice and an attorney-general, with other law officers, and the usual departments of a colonial administration. All grave offences committed by British subjects must be tried at Hong-kong. At the time when the British first occupied Hong-kong, the number of Chinese inhabitants was supposed to amount to about 5,000, exclusive of the boat people and migratory labourers from the mainland. The resident population consisted chiefly of fishermen and smugglers, who were distributed in about fourteen or fifteen villages. Since the island became a British colony, there has been a great increase of Chinese. The population is now upwards of 30,000, of whom 28,297 are Chinese. There are in Victoria one English Episcopal church, one Roman Catholic church, and four places of worship for dissenters. The island contains also a Mahometan mosque and three Chinese temples. The command of cheap labour to any extent has been one great cause of the rapid progress of the town of Victoria. In June, 1841, when the British forces assembled in the Bay of Hong-kong, on their return from Canton, there was not a house in the island fit for the residence of Europeans, and Sir H. Pottinger, the plenipotentiary, lived, when on shore, in a tent. The site of Victoria was covered with brushwood. Within a year after the first house was completed, there had been constructed regular streets and bazaars for the Chinese, numerous large storerooms, substantial wharfs and jetties, two European hotels and billiard-rooms, and various public buildings. In consequence of the limited space between the beach and the base of the mountains, the town necessarily stretches in a line, which is about three miles in front of the harbour. We are indebted for the foregoing account to "Knight's Geography of the British Empire."

THE CITY OF CANTON.

CANTON, now in possession of the British troops, is one of the greatest commercial emporiums in Asia, and certainly one of the most important in China. The city, which is enclosed by a wall and entered by twelve gates, is about seventy miles from the mouth of the Canton or Pearl river, on the north bank of which it extends a considerable distance. The wall enclosing the city is built of brick, and in some places mounted with cannon. On the heights which command the city are four strong forts; while on some islands in the river are other forts, termed the "Dutch" and "French Folly," intended to guard the river approaches to the city. The suburbs of Canton, in which the Europeans have their quarters, are nearly as large as the city itself. These quarters are divided into thirteen hong, including those of the British, Dutch, American, French, Austrian, Swedish, Danish, Parsee, and other merchants. The hong occupied by the English far surpasses the rest in elegance and extent. Contiguous to the hong are Old and New China Streets, and Hog Lane; the two former are among the best streets in the suburbs; the latter is a filthy thoroughfare, well known to foreign seamen, between whom and the Chinese frequent and serious disturbances have arisen. Both the city and suburbs are laid out and built after one fashion; the streets are narrow and crooked, but are paved and flagged, and closed by gates guarded at night. The houses of the Chinese are generally of brick, though some few are built of stone; but the houses of the poorer classes are chiefly constructed of mud and wood, and are seldom more than one storey in height. They have flat roofs and terraces, and floors of hardened mud, stone, or tiles; in place of window-glass, paper, mica, or thin shell is used. The residences of the wealthier inhabitants are built within a walled court, and are richly furnished.

In and around the city there are as many as 120 temples, the principal being the Buddhist temple of Honan, on an adjacent island. The city also contains a Mahometan mosque, with a dome and minaret 160 feet in height, and outside the walls is a lofty and elegant pagoda. Canton boasts many hospitals, a grand hall for the examination of candidates for literary honours, fourteen high schools, and about thirty colleges, three of which have each 200 students. The manufactures are various and extensive; 17,000 persons are said to be employed in silk-weaving, 50,000 in the manufacture of all kinds of cloth, and upwards of 4,000 in shoemaking. Great numbers of individuals work in wood, stone, iron, and brass, and the book trade is considerable. The markets, the principal of which we have engraved, abound with all kinds of live stock, fish, fruit, vegetables, poultry, dogs, cats, and owls, and the city is well supplied with water from springs and reservoirs within and without the walls.

Until 1848 all the legitimate foreign trade of China was conducted at Canton, and its amount previous to the breaking out of the war was estimated at upwards of £20,000,000 annually. Teas of course the chief article of export to Europe, and next may be mentioned silk, piece goods, precious metals, cassia, sugar, and porcelain. Of late years the export trade has increased to such an extent that the mercantile portion of the Chinese community must have suffered greatly by the existing state of things.

Mr. MURRAY, our ambassador at Teheran, who has been suffering from chronic dysentery, is "steadily recovering."

THE SEA SERPENT.—A correspondent of the "Times" having suggested that the animal seen near St. Helena by the officers and crew of H.M.S. Dredalus, and afterwards by Captain Harrington, was no more than a gigantic piece of sea-weed, the story is more distinctly repeated. An officer of the Dredalus declares that "the object seen from her Majesty's ship on that occasion was, beyond all question, a living animal, moving rapidly through the water, against a cross sea, and within five points of a fresh breeze, with such velocity that the water was surging under its chest as it passed along at a rate probably of not less than ten miles per hour. At its nearest position it was not more than 200 yards from us, the eye, the mouth, the nostrils, the colour and form, all being visible. My impression was that it was rather of a lizard than a serpentine character, as its movement was steady and uniform, as if propelled by fins, not by any undulatory power. It was in sight from our first observing it about ten minutes, as we were fast leaving one another on opposite tacks with a freshening breeze and the sea getting up." Another writer (Admiral Hamilton) says he saw and "handled" a sea serpent caught by the *Pekin* in 1848; but it was only four inches in diameter and twenty feet long. Lastly, Captain Harrington remarks distinctly that he saw the serpent off St. Helena, and refers to Captain Claxton, R.N., Sir Colin Campbell, and other gentlemen, to whom he is known, as witnesses to his veracity. He says—"I could no more be deceived than (as a seaman) I could mistake a porpoise for a whale. If it had been at a great distance, it would have been different; but it was not above twenty yards from the ship. Twenty people, including Mrs. Harrington and my two officers, saw it as distinctly as I now see the gas-light which I am writing by."

IRELAND.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.—An appeal has been published by the clergy of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, Donegal, on behalf of the poor of those districts. There are, we learn from a printed statement, "800 families subsisting on sea-weed, cockles, or any other edible matter they can pick up along the seashore, or scrape off the rocks. There are about 600 adults, of both sexes, who, through sheer poverty, are now going bare-footed, amidst the inclemency of the season, on this bleak northern coast. There are about 700 families that have neither bed nor bed-clothes, but are forced to lie on the cold damp earth in the rags worn by them during the day. There are about 800 families without a second bed, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, being huddled together as best they can. There are about 400 families, in which there may be half-a-dozen of full-grown females, who have only one dress among them, in which they can appear in public; mothers and daughters alternately using this common wardrobe when they go out of doors. There are about 600 families who have now neither cow, sheep, nor goat, and who, from the beginning of the year to its close, hardly ever know the taste of milk or butter."

DREADFUL FIRE.—The "Carlow Post" says that on Thursday morning, at about five o'clock, a fire broke out in the clothes store of Athy Workhouse, the flames quickly spreading to an adjoining dormitory, in which were about thirteen children sleeping. All the children escaped save three, who were burnt to ashes. The heated vapour from the burning building extended to a dormitory occupied by twelve men, seven of whom got up, dressed themselves, and quitted the room; but the other five, paralysed by the vapour, were unable to escape, and were suffocated. The fire was got under by eight o'clock. An inquiry was to be made into its origin.

THE ABOLITION OF THE VICEROYALTY.—A special meeting of the Municipal Council was held at the City Hall, Dublin, on Saturday, "to consider the course most expedient to be pursued relative to the notice appearing upon the journals of the House of Commons in relation to the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland." The Lord Mayor occupied the chair. On the motion of Mr. Allerman Reynolds, the Court resolved itself into a committee to prepare resolutions and a petition to Parliament, and also an address to the Lord-Lieutenant, protesting against the measure of Mr. Roebuck. The following resolution was adopted:—"That in the opinion of this Council the proposed abolition of the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland is an unjust, impolitic, and uncalculated for measure, and contrary to the feelings of the people of Ireland, and prejudicial to the best interests of the United Kingdom."

SCOTLAND.

LOST IN THE SNOW.—Archibald Macdonald, son of an innkeeper at Tomich of Gaisnach, Strathglass, left home on the 30th ult. to visit his sister, who is married to a shepherd in one of the glens near Kintail. In a few days it was ascertained that he did not arrive at his destination, and his friends went in search of him, accompanied by the shepherds of the glen. On Friday, the 5th instant, they found his remains within a mile or two of his sister's house in the snow on the direct pathway.

THE PROVINCES.

AUDACIOUS ROBBERY IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—Mr. Wainwright, a schoolmaster, of Littleborough, was, on the evening of Thursday week, in Manchester, and returned home by the train which left at a quarter past eight o'clock. The train, as usual, stopped at Rochdale, and here Mr. Wainwright got out of the compartment of the carriage he had hitherto travelled in, and went into another, where only another gentleman was sitting. Just as the train was about to leave the station, a third man got into the carriage. The train had not proceeded far when this third person threw the contents of a bottle in Mr. Wainwright's face, seized him by the throat, and threw him on the floor of the carriage. Mr. Wainwright now lost all recollection, but as the train proceeded he regained his consciousness, and found himself on his back, the man having his knee upon his breast, and rifling his pockets. The robber, discovering that he had partially recovered, once more seized him by the throat, and Mr. Wainwright again lost all consciousness. The train stopped at Walsden Station; here the officials observed nothing irregular; but when the train arrived at Todmorden, Mr. Wainwright was found insensible at the bottom of the carriage—and insensible he remained till the middle of the next day. The robber wore false moustachios, and had a gray shawl or cloak. He was a tall man, and had the appearance of a gentleman. The thief must have made his escape at the Walsden Station, jumped out of the train while in motion, or walked on the carriage footboard into another carriage, as the door of the compartment where Mr. Wainwright sat was found open at Todmorden, a circumstance which drew the attention of the railway servants to Mr. Wainwright's condition. He was robbed of a watch and £9 10s. in gold.

ESCAPE FROM HEREFORD COUNTY JAIL.—Thomas Davis, who was committed for trial for housebreaking, broke out of Hereford jail last week. The prisoner removed a large lock from the door, and wrenched it off. He also wrenched off a heavy bolt, and seems to have picked a large padlock, removing the top plate by some unsuspected means. A bag, composed of strong twine network, is placed in each cell, and in this the prisoner every night deposits his clothes, which are removed from the cell, and restored (with the net) at six o'clock in the morning. Davis formed a ladder of the net-work, probably—providing steps for his feet by breaking up his wooden trencher into narrow slips. Since his escape, a robbery has been committed at a house in the direction in which it is supposed he has gone; and, from the fact that wearing apparel was the chief booty, it is thought to be more than probable the prisoner was the perpetrator.

ATTEMPTED MURDER IN PRESTON JAIL BY A PRISONER CHARGED WITH PARICIDE.—It will be remembered that Thomas Kershaw, nineteen years of age, a factory operative, was lately committed for trial at the Lancaster assizes on a charge of having murdered his father on the 13th ult., at Over Darwen. After commitment he was removed to the jail at Preston to await his trial, and was confined in one of the hospital wards, two orderlies, named Collins and Gomer (also prisoners) being appointed to watch him alternately. It seems that he made some statements to Collins about the murder, which Collins communicated to the governor. He told Collins that he "intended to act mad before the assizes." On Friday morning Collins was sitting by his bed-side, reading the Testament, when Kershaw got out of bed and struck him on the head with an iron fire shovel. Collins fell down insensible. Other men ran in and seized Kershaw, who only said, "I may as well be hung for two murders as for one." The matter was investigated by the visiting justices on Saturday, and he was committed on this additional charge.

THE SUSPECTED MURDER AT EASTBOURNE.—Our readers may recollect that in November last a box containing the body of a lad was washed ashore near Eastbourne. Photographic likenesses were taken of the deceased, who was recognised as Joseph Cotwell by his mother and by his employer. The Cotwell family of course went into mourning upon the occasion, but the mother last week discovered that her son was alive, and an inmate of the union at Ashton-under-Lyne.

FATAL COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL.

THE following narrative of a dreadful collision which took place on the morning of Thursday week, off Holyhead, is communicated by a passenger:—

"The *Leander* was a fine ship, of 900 tons, and sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans, with a fine S.E. breeze, at nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, having on board the captain, his wife and son, one passenger, two mates, steward, cook, and fourteen seamen. She was in light order, having about 300 tons salt and 150 tons ballast on board. We made Point Lynas at three o'clock, Skerries at five, Holyhead at six, having run all this time eight and nine knots an hour, with a fresh breeze and all plain sail set. All went on well until one or two a.m. on Thursday, when I was awoke by a terrible crash of timber, and the first impression was that the ship had been struck by lightning. I arose and tied on my life belt, and tried to open the stateroom door, but it was jammed fast. I heard the mate's voice cry 'Run to the passengers' room,' and immediately he and the captain's son burst open the door, and the mate broke the window and got out, I following him that way. Going forward to the cabin, which is on deck, with a slightly raised walk round three sides of it, I found the captain's wife, son, and second mate. I then knew we were run into, and cut two-thirds through the deck just about the main rigging, starboard on the lee side. The captain's wife exclaimed, 'The ship is sinking; oh! save me, somebody.' It was too true; and while she spoke the ship settled fast in the water. I went aft again to the binnacle. A man rushed past me, put the wheel down, and jumped overboard. I took one look forward, and saw the waves rise on every side, and then pour in like a cataract. Then I was carried far down with the ship, and came up to struggle with the waves with the others in like circumstances. The time of these occurrences must be counted in seconds, as not more than five minutes elapsed from the first shock until the ship went down. The steamer that ran us down was a short way off, and in about twenty minutes I was picked up. She turned out to be the *North American*, from Portland to Liverpool. When all saved were mustered we numbered twelve, viz. the captain and his son, mate, steward, cook, six men, and myself; the captain's wife, second mate, and eight men being lost. The cause of the second mate's peculiar distressing. He was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. We had every kindness shown us on board the steamer, and the passengers raised money enough to give the mate £5, and the eight crew £1 each. How the accident occurred I know not, nor who was to blame—this no doubt will be investigated. All I know is that some are saved, and that it is of God's mercy that any of us are alive to tell it."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Lord BRIDGMAN called the attention of the House to the state of the law as regarded imprisonment for debt, and a discussion followed, in which Lord Campbell, Lord Wensleydale, and the Lord Chancellor took part. Some other business was despatched, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORY.

Lord BURY and Mr. ROEBUCK made certain inquiries having reference to the Hudson's Bay Company, in reply to which Mr. LABOUCHERE announced that he had given notice to the Company that the Government intended to assume the direction of that territory.

CANTILLON'S LEGACY.

Mr. STIRLING inquired whether the legacy of 10,000*l.* bequeathed to Cantillon, who attempted to assassinate the late Duke of Wellington, by the late Napoleon Bonaparte, in a codicil to his will, approving and justifying the attempt, had since the 2nd of December, 1851, been paid by the Emperor of the French. He remarked that in that codicil the doctrine of assassination was preached by a man whose memory was revered in France; but what he wanted to know was, whether this mischievous doctrine had been endorsed by the present ruler of France; whether the wages of assassination had been paid; if so, when and by whom?

Lord PALMERSTON observed that it would have been better if, instead of appearing to assume an answer to the statement, Mr. Stirling had simply asked how the facts really stood. There was not the slightest foundation for saying that the legacy had been paid by the Emperor of the French. Advances were made in 1823 and 1825, but a refusal to issue the remainder of the legacy was given since the accession of Louis Napoleon.

THE INDIA BILL.

Lord PALMERSTON moved for leave to bring in a bill for transferring from the East India Company to the Crown the government of her Majesty's East India dominions. He brought forward this measure, he said, not out of any hostility to the Company, or as implying any blame or censure on that body. He pointed out the inconveniences incident to the double government by the Board of Control and a Court of Directors elected by a body consisting of holders of East India Stock; and said he thought it was desirable that this cumbersome machinery should be reduced in form to what it was in fact, and that complete authority should vest where the public thought complete responsibility should rest, instead of nominally in an irresponsible body, ostensibly a company of merchants. The bill would be confined to a change in the administration at home, without any alteration of the arrangements in India, the intention being to alter as little as possible, consistently with the great object in view—the establishment of a responsible Government for India as for other territories of the Crown. He proposed that the functions of the Court of Directors and the Court of Proprietors should cease, and that there should be substituted a President and Council for the Affairs of India, the President to be a member of the Cabinet, and the Councilors to be named by the Crown, eight in number, to go out by rotation, two every second year; but the Crown would have power to renew appointments. It was proposed that the decision of the President, who would be the organ of the Government, should be final, but that if the Councilors dissented from his opinion, they should have the right to record their opinion in minutes, and on matters concerning the Indian revenue it was intended that the President should have the concurrence of four Councilors. He proposed that the Council should have the power of distributing the business among themselves; that the President should be placed upon the footing of a Secretary of State, and that the Councilors should have salaries of £1,000 a year. It was proposed that while all the powers now vested in the Court of Directors should be transferred to this Council, all appointments in India now made by the local authorities should continue to be so made; that the President should be authorised to appoint one Secretary capable of sitting in that House, but it was not proposed that the Councilors should be capable of sitting in Parliament. There was one matter of constitutional difficulty which, he remarked, had always been the foundation of an objection to this change—namely, the patronage. With regard, however, to the local appointments, they would continue to be made in India. Members of the local Councils likewise would be made by the Governor-General. Arrangements had already been made by which writeships were obtained by open competition, and this system would be continued. Cadetships had hitherto been divided between the Court of Directors and the President of the Board of Control, and it was proposed to leave them to the President and Council. The final appointment of both would depend upon their efficiency in India. A certain portion of the cadetships would be reserved for the sons of Indian officers. The army would consist, as heretofore, of Queen's troops, local European corps enlisted for service in India, and a diminished native force. The revenues of India would, of course, be applied solely to the purposes of the Indian Government, and auditors would be appointed to examine the expenditure of the revenue, and their audit would be laid before Parliament.

Mr. T. BARING moved as an amendment "That it is not at present expedient to legislate for the government of India." Mr. Baring dwelt upon the alarm which so sweeping a change would excite in the minds of the people of India, and the power which it threw into the hands of the Government. No charge had been made against the East India Company, and he entreated the House to pause before it adopted the plan in the present state of affairs in India.

Sir E. PEARCE thought, on the contrary, that this was the fittest and most opportune moment for introducing a measure of this kind. His opinion was that the present system was effete and useless.

Mr. MILNES said that no facts had been put forward to show that the progress of events in India had been checked by the action of the double government, or that it had contributed to the mutiny; and he could not see how those who had supported the double government in 1853 could abandon it now. In his opinion, India would not be better governed by the despotism of a Cabinet Minister. He had expected that Lord Palmerston would have offered some plea for the measure, but he had been disappointed.

Mr. W. VANSITTART insisted that, before a change was proposed, an inquiry into the causes and circumstances of the late outbreak in India was imperatively demanded.

Mr. AYTON said that, having gone to India with every prejudice in favour of the Government of the East India Company, he had come to the conclusion, after a residence there, that the continuance of the rule of that remnant of a trading company was not only highly inexpedient, but impossible. He gave his cordial assent to the bill.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER observed that in the petition of the East India Company there were two main assumptions: one, that the East India Company had acquired our Eastern empire; the other, that their Government was the best Government that the civilised world had ever produced. With respect to the first, assuming that the acquisition of territory in India had been advantageous to the country, he disputed the doctrine that it had been acquired by the policy of the East India Company—it had been acquired by Clive, Hastings, and other Indian conquerors, and by governors appointed by the Crown, in spite of repeated instructions of the trading company not to acquire territory. In examining the other assumption, Sir C. Lewis asserted that there existed evidence diametrically of the Company as a political body from 1758 to 1784, showing that no civilised Government on the face of the earth was more corrupt, perfidious, and rapacious. All that could be said in favour of the East India Company dated from the year 1784, after they had been subjected to Parliamentary control. In 1813 the trading monopoly of the Company was taken away, and in 1833 the whole of their trading powers were abolished, and they were merely retained as a political engine subordinate to the Crown. In 1853, further changes were made in the constitution of the Court of Directors, and the fallacy in the petition consisted in supposing the East India Company to be one and indivisible, and that they had remained unchanged from the battle of Plassey to the last renewal of their charter. He agreed that there was no ground for imputing blame to the Company as to the mutiny; but the present state of things had brought to the notice of the Government the clumsiness, inefficiency, and complexity of the present form of the home government of India, which Parliament could at any time remodel. He thought it would be more satisfactory if Parliament would fix the executive authority for Indian affairs in this country, with full responsibility, upon the Ministers of the Crown.

Mr. MANGLES defended the allegations in the Company's petition, and read testimony borne by Lord Macaulay to the character of the Company's Government prior to 1784. He argued strongly against the proposed measure on account of the time, and the effect which the change might produce upon the natives of India.

On the motion of Mr. ROEBUCK, the debate was adjourned.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE NEWS FROM INDIA.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH inquired if the Government had received any intelligence with regard to the execution of 150 mutineers by Sir Hugh Rose, and recommended a lenient course of policy to the Government.

Lord GRANVILLE replied that the Government had as yet no information on the subject except through the telegram. The Government quite agreed,

India would soon did the Governor-General, with the general principle of Lord Dalhousie.

Lord Dalhousie expressed his satisfaction at the despatch written by Mr. Canning in exculpation of General Windham's conduct at the time of the rebellion.

In connection with the Bankruptcy Commissioners were discussed the motion of Lord Brougham, and their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE INDIA BILL.

A general debate upon the motion of Lord Palmerston for leave to bring in a bill for the better government of India, was resumed by Mr. Russell, who remarked in the outset that in the acquisition of India

we had shown almost every rule of morality; that we had exhibited great power and great intelligence, but not great virtue. Yet he believed that India, who were incapable of governing themselves. The question, then, was what form of government was suited for India, and whether it was the right time for the change? He thought this was the right time, with some changes, the proposition of the Ministry would insure a better government.

Mr. WHITEHEAD said his difficulty had been to find out what was the principle of the bill, but of Lord Palmerston's speech. It might have been that the East India Company would have been shown to be indolent, inefficient, incompetent, or corrupt; but no blame was imputed to the company, who were complimented by Lord Palmerston, as they had been by Sir C. Wood in 1855. He dwelt at some length upon the speech of Sir Charles, which, he insisted, furnished direct answers to arguments in support of the proposed change, which would reverse the decision of the House in 1855. Other testimonies, including those of Lord Macaulay and the late Duke of Wellington, antagonistic to the measure in question, were given by Mr. Whitehead. So far from the interference of Parliament in depriving the Indian administration, he asserted that any one who could go through Mill's History of India must come to the conclusion that the government under the Board of Control was corrupt, demoralising, and mischievous, and he read the high eulogium pronounced by that historian upon the Company's government. In conclusion, he called upon the House to stay its hand, and although it might enlarge the basis of the edifice which had stood so long, not upon the arguments urged for that object, but to throw it.

Mr. LOWE observed that the assumption which ran through the speech of Mr. Whitehead, as well as that of Mr. Baring, was that the House was called upon to take a step to throw out of gear the whole Government of India, in order to see if it could be put in gear again, and that this was a dangerous moment to make such an experiment. On the contrary, he contended that the direct agency of the Court of Directors could be eliminated without inconvenience; that a Council could exercise more influence upon the mind of the President than a Court sitting in Leadenhall Street, and which had been deprived of political power and all important duties. The effect of the indirect agency of the Court of Directors was to produce delay and embarrassment, and to prevent the Government being placed in the proper hands—namely, those of the Queen's Ministers. He contended that, looking at the immense interests at stake, the Government were bound not to let this measure at a time when the Indian administration peculiarly required unity and efficiency.

Mr. LUDDELL opposed the measure, on the ground that it transferred the government of India to commissioners, destroying the only independent element in the existing system of administration.

Mr. STANLEY believed that the East India Company was incompetent to develop properly the vast opportunities afforded in our Eastern empire. He supported the bill as promising to establish a more vigorous government, and one capable of dealing effectually both with the difficulties and the advantages of India.

Mr. CRAWFORD supported the amendment. Inquiry, he argued, ought to precede legislation.

Sir H. RAWLINSON illustrated the delays and complication of the double government system by describing some of the cumbrous processes through which, he stated, every despatch or transaction had to pass before reaching its destination or being put in train for completion. So far from considering the measure ill-timed, it would, in his opinion, be received with satisfaction by the Europeans in India, and produce a useful effect among the natives.

Sir J. WALSH maintained that the double government system, with all its complications, was better than a single and autocratic authority. Nothing was simpler or more prompt than a despotism, but he was not prepared to purchase its advantages by the sacrifice of all constitutional checks. No charge had been made out against the Company, and no cause really shown for their abolition. Proceeding to criticise the details of the measure, he expressed his belief that it was introduced by the Minister merely to satisfy a momentary impulse of popular clamour.

Mr. A. MILLS consented to the introduction of the bill, which was also approved by Mr. WYLL.

Mr. DANBY SKYMOUR added some further comments upon the cumbrous machinery of the present system. The Government measure would, he argued, strengthen the executive, promote the introduction of improvements, re-secure the native population, and encourage independent British settlers in Hindustan.

Mr. ADAMS said that no good reason had yet been assigned in support of the bill, nor any just grounds shown for destroying the East India Company. As to the complaint of delay and circumlocution in the system, he was convinced, from personal experience, that in this respect Leadenhall Street was no worse than Downing Street.

Mr. ELIOT also opposed the bill.

Colonel SYKES moved that the debate be adjourned, and this motion was carried upon a division by 280 to 32.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords, the Church of England Special Services Bill went through committee after some discussion, in which the Earl of Wicklow, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Dunsannon, and other peers participated. Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE EMPEROR'S APOLOGY.

Mr. GRIFFITH inquired whether any communication had passed, or was intended to pass, between her Majesty's Ministers and the French Government relative to the non-appearance of the apologetic letter from Count Walewski to Lord Clarendon in the official "Moniteur," where the dictatorial despatch transmitted through M. Persigny, and the threatening addresses from the French army, had been so carefully inserted?

Lord PALMERSTON replied by another query, namely, whether the House wished to maintain the relationship between England and France on an amiable basis, or to infuse into both nations a feeling of irritation and bitterness? Expressing his own determination to resist, if possible, the latter course of proceeding, he answered the immediate question before him by stating that the Government had no intention of doing anything so offensive and absurd as seemed to be suggested by the propounder.

THE ENGLISH PRISONERS AT SALERNO.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. Monckton Milnes, stated that Watt, the engineer of the Cagliari, whose trial had been interrupted by an attack of insanity, was at present in the English infirmary at Naples, carefully tended by English physicians.

THE DUBLIN POLICE.

Mr. GREGAN, refusing to yield precedence to the Indian debate, brought forward a motion of which he had given notice, for a select committee to inquire into the system and management of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force.

After a reply from Mr. H. HERBERT, who opposed the motion, the House divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 200. Majority against the resolution, 95.

THE ANNEXATION OF OUDE.

Mr. H. BAILEY, who also refused compliance with another appeal from Lord Palmerston, proceeded to call the attention of the House to the East. These causes, he insisted, were still unknown, or misunderstood; and it was above all things necessary that this question should be thoroughly investigated before they ventured to legislate upon the government of India. The Hon. Member went on to trace the Bengal mutiny to the recent policy of annexation, which he strongly condemned, and especially the annexation of Oude. He concluded by moving for certain correspondence relating to that transaction.

Mr. V. SMITH denied the existence, at any time, of what could be called a policy of annexation, and vindicated the act of Lord Dalhousie in annexing Oude. The abuses of the native government in that province had become insupportable. The correspondence moved for contained, he believed, nothing objectionable, nor anything mysterious, and he was perfectly willing to produce it.

Lord J. RUSSELL defended Lord Dalhousie, asserting that the accusations were unworthy in character and founded on total ignorance of the facts. He (Lord John), however, thought it unfortunate that the annexation should have taken place contemporaneously with the Persian war, and without a sufficient force at hand in case of emergency.

Lord J. MANNS contended that the usurpation of Oude by the East

India Company was wholly unjustifiable. Lord Dalhousie had no right to annex the King's territories. This crime would, he added, have met with an earlier rebuke in Parliament but for the outbreak of the mutiny, which had led to the withdrawal of several motions on the subject, whose record had been given at the commencement of last year's session.

Mr. R. MANGLES conceived that the late Government of Oude was literally the worst and most atrocious in the world. He described the efforts made by various governments and British residents in the province to persuade or alarm the King into a better course of administration. These endeavours failed, there remained no resource but to extinguish a system whose abominations had become unspeakable. Annexation, under these circumstances, was just and even necessary; and he saw no reason to attribute to that transaction the recent outbreaks of mutiny.

After some explanation from Colonel SYKES respecting his personal participation in the annexation of Oude,

Mr. KISSNAULT maintained that the transaction, if not altogether unwarrantable, was ill managed, and led to heavy disasters.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON observed, that the Treaty of 1837 with the King of Oude had been altogether ignored. The infraction of that treaty was to the last degree unjust and unrighteous.

General THOMPSON deprecated the commencement of a war of races in India. He denounced the insolent spirit manifested by the Europeans towards the natives before the mutiny, to which he believed the revolt was solely attributable, and declared that the conduct of the English officers during the subsequent operations was characterised by barbarities disgraceful to themselves and to the nation to which they belonged.

Mr. FALK energetically protested against this slander upon gallant men. He never expected to have heard in that House a vindication of the sepoj atrocities.

Mr. P. O'BRIEN having briefly spoken, the motion was agreed to.

TENANT-RIGHT IN IRELAND.

Mr. MAGUIRE obtained leave to bring in a Bill to provide compensation to tenant farmers in Ireland for improvements made by them upon lands in their occupation, and to limit the power of eviction in certain cases.

THE MORTALITY IN THE ARMY.

Captain ANNESLEY moved an address for copy of the report of the medical officers of the Foot Guards which states the average mortality in that brigade.

Mr. S. HERBERT gave explanations upon the subject of the report, and suggested an amendment of the motion, which was adopted, and, after a short discussion, the motion was agreed to.

The House then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHURCH-RATE ABOLITION BILL.

Sir J. TRELAWNEY moved the second reading of this Bill. He said the principle of the abolition of church-rates had been already adopted in Ireland by the abolition of ministers' money. (Hear.) Last year the Noble Lord promised to bring forward a bill, but this year he would a deputation round his finger and dismissed them without any answer. The Hon. Gentleman urged on the House to put an end to the heart-burnings between churchmen and dissenters by abolishing church-rates. If the voluntary principle was adopted there need be no fear that churches would fall into disrepair.

General THOMPSON seconded the motion, although he looked upon the present bill merely as a feeler to try the power of public opinion, as it contained no provision for the pecuniary loss which would be entailed on the Established Church. He thought the deficiency should be made good by the imposition of a land tax.

Sir A. ELTON thought that the abolition of church-rates would be attended with the best possible results, but he did not wish to see them abolished without some remedy being afforded by the State towards the repairs of the church. He thought the same plan adopted by the State towards schools should be extended to the church.

Lord STANLEY supported the Bill.

Sir G. GREY said he could not agree to the abolition of church-rates without an equivalent. What he suggested as a compromise on a former occasion he now again urged—namely, that they should recognise the abolition of church-rates, wherever they had been abolished for a certain time by the inhabitants, and that they should relieve the individual consciences of those who differed with the Established Church, by exempting them from payment of church-rates, but at the same time they should not be allowed to have seats in the vestry, nor take part in any ecclesiastical business. He also suggested that landowners should charge their estates to a limited amount to church-rates. Under present circumstances he should feel it his duty to oppose the bill, and, if the measure was rejected, to introduce a measure embodying this suggestion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said if the suggestion of his Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, was adopted it would bring about a practical solution of the difficulty. In his opinion, if it was adopted, the best effects would without doubt follow.

The House then divided, when there appeared—for the second reading, 213; against it, 160; majority, 53.

The announcement was received with loud cheers.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of CARNARVON, in moving for a return of the actual strength of the militia regiments at present embodied, expressed his opinion that it was insufficient. He doubted if the sum of £150,000 would be sufficient to maintain the embodied militia in the force required.

Lord PARNBURY stated that a body of 10,000 militia would be sufficient, as the ranks of the army were now more freely supplied by voluntary enlistment. If recruiting went on in the same ratio for two months longer, the Government would have raised by voluntary enlistment, since the month of July last, a force nearly equal to the army sent to India. The vote of £150,000 for the militia would be enough for the number of that body required.

After a few words from the Earl of Ellenborough, the motion was agreed to.

Lord BROUGHAM introduced a bill for effecting various changes in the present jurisdiction in bankruptcy.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LORD CLANRICARDE.

Mr. WISE intimated that, on the 4th of March, he should move that the salary of the Lord Privy Seal be discontinued, and that the duties of the office be transferred to another department.

THE INDIA BILL.

The adjourned debate on the Government of India Bill was resumed by Colonel SYKES, who contended that the vast increase of imports into India, and the consequent increase of labour, were striking facts in favour of the wise and beneficial administration of the Company.

Sir CHARLES WOOD declared that, five years ago, when the existing charter was renewed, the probability of the government of India being placed under the Crown at no distant day was distinctly asserted, and events had shown that the present was a fitting time for carrying the change into effect.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY defended the action of the double government. He defended the Company against the charge of their having interfered with the principle of adoption, and ignored the Christian religion in India, describing the latter as the most unjust and unfounded accusation which had ever been made against a body of honourable men.

Sir EDWARD B. LYTTON characterised the bill as audacious, because it would destroy a body which, whatever its faults, carefully sifted the unwise propositions of the Imperial Government; as incomplete, because it was adapted to a new state of things which would arise after the close of the war; and unconsidered, because it increased the patronage of the Crown, and in a direction the most objectionable, viz., in the direction of the House of Commons, where it might be applied in defiance of any measure against bribery and corruption. He objected to legislating permanently for the civil administration of India while the country was in its present abnormal and peculiar state. The measure would have the effect of transferring India, which had been subject to all the evils of a mutinous army, to the still more demoralising evils of a system of organised patriotism and jobbing.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in giving his adherence to the proposed bill, pointed out that with the anomaly of the great sepoj army, India could never be considered safe, and said it was absolutely necessary that a large army of Queen's troops should now be kept in that country, a circumstance which must involve their placing the military and civil power in the hands of the Crown.

Mr. DISRAELI objected that one consequence of the proposal of the Government would be that this country would take upon itself an immediate deficit of eleven or twelve millions sterling from the Indian revenue, which had been long subject to a chronic deficit of two millions per annum. What he suggested was, that as soon as the rebellion was put down, they should send out a commission to India to investigate the revenues and our relations with native princes: it would then be time to decide what was to be done for the future.

Lord PALMERSTON warmly defended the bill against the objections taken to it, and ridiculed the financial bugbear which had been started by the Right Hon. Gentleman.

The House divided, when there appeared—for the bill, 318; against it, 173; majority, 145.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK WILLIAM AT BERLIN.

At the apartments at Bellevue Palace, which is situated on the bank of the Spree, and at one side of the Thier-Garten, had been put into festal order for the arrival of the Prince and Princess Frederick-William. The apartments were especially destined for the Bride, who were decorated lavishly with flowers and plants, as well as the staircase and landing-places leading to them. We may assume this to have been a special act of attention to the young couple on the part of the Queen, to whom the palace may be said more especially to belong, as it will form part of her jointure should she outlive the King. It was here, while engaged in the preparations for their entry into Berlin, that the King and Queen surprised the young couple with a visit, instead of allowing them to go out of their way to Charlottenburg, to call upon them. This meeting gained an additional value in the eyes of the Princess from its very unexpected, unceremonious, and affectionate manner. The King and Queen came for the purpose from Charlottenburg to Bellevue; and as soon as the near approach of the young couple was announced, the King left the apartments where they were waiting and went to meet his niece at the bottom of the staircase. The Princess, pleasantly surprised at this unexpected meeting, stooped to kiss his Majesty's hand, but the King anticipated her by taking her in his arms and kissing her, exclaiming at the same time, "How delightful this is! Here you are at last!" He then upon led her up into the palace, where the Queen received her also very affectionately.

After devoting the necessary time to the assumption of the festal apparel appropriate to the bridal nature of the Princess's first visit to Berlin, the *cortège* left Bellevue Palace at one o'clock (on the 8th inst.) in the grand state carriage, and preceded by a military escort. As we have already stated, the state carriage in Prussia is one of those highly-gilded and uncomfortable vehicles that one sees portrayed in old-world engravings, all angles and allegory, uncouth figures, and inconvenient shapes, and differs from ours in possessing on the centre of its roof a gilt helmet with a fierce-looking plume and open visor, which, surrounded by other military trophies, throws the balance of ugliness, as compared with our own, rather in favour of the Prussian one; but, drawn by eight horses with highly-decorated old-fashioned trappings, it nevertheless seemed more appropriate to the occasion than a modern and more comfortable vehicle would have been.

At the point where the avenue leading from Bellevue enters the high road, between Charlottenburg and Berlin, the *cortège* found forty postillions and other officials of the postal service in full gala costume and well mounted, who at once took the lead in the procession, blowing lustily a number of appropriate pieces of music, which they had been practising under the directions of a military musician. To the left of the postillions were the master butchers, the journeymen butchers, a deputation of the *Bürgerschaft*, and another of the *Kaufmannschaft*, all mounted, each body with its band of mounted musicians, those of the *Kaufmannschaft* habited in the state costume of our Life Guards' band; the members themselves of these mounted deputations all in black frock coats, white neckcloths, and cocked hats, jack-boots, and spurs, and in some cases drawn swords, the marshals of each body being distinguished by silk scarfs from the right shoulder to the left hip. At the approach of the state carriage, all the mounted deputations saluted in military fashion, and the trumpeters of the bands struck up the national hymn of both countries, while the spokesman of the party approached and begged permission for the butchers (whose appearance, by the by, by no means betrayed their calling) to present a copy of verses, and for the other mounted deputations to take their places at the head of the *cortège*. All which being duly accorded, the horsemen filed past the state carriage and took up the places assigned them, and thus, with the mounted bands playing the National Hymn, the procession passed the spot where the "subjects of her Britannic Majesty" were drawn up under cover of their flags.

To the left of our countrymen the children of the male and female military orphan schools were stationed, and it was one of the prettiest features of the whole affair to see the young lads salute, their hand strike up, and the girls strew flowers before the bridal couple. Close to the Brandenburg-Thor stood the Governor and the Commandant of Berlin and the President of Police, who took up their places at the side of the state carriage after a few words of welcome from the Governor, Field-Marshal Von Wrangel. The whole distance hitherto traversed was decorated with tall masts, supporting festoons of evergreens and flowers, from which also flags and pennons were waving merrily in the wind. On the outside of the Brandenburg-Thor, on the architrave, stood, in flowers, "Willkommen," in large legible letters, and any one who failed to comprehend the meaning of that much-saying word must have found its ample explanation a few steps further, inside the gate.

The Pariser-Platz is a noble quadrangle just inside the Brandenburg-Thor, the houses forming which are nearly all of uniform architecture, with a noble gas candelabrum in the centre, and two very elegant buildings in Grecian style at the entrance, one devoted to the military guard of the gate, the other to the collection of the *octroi*; it is also from the further side of this Platz that the noble avenue of limes and horse chestnuts leads down to the monument of Frederick the Great in a direct line nearly 2,000 feet long. Round the candelabrum in the centre was a band of music, which struck up the National Hymn on the state carriage passing the gate; a salute of three times twenty-four guns was at that moment commenced, and the Oberbürgermeister and the Bürgermeister, and the various officers of the Municipality, stepped forward on the approach of the state carriage to present its august occupants with an address.

On moving forward again, the procession entered first the triumphal arch erected at the entrance of the Linden-Avenue, along which no festal procession had passed since the solemn entry of the present Queen in 1823 as bride of the then Crown Prince of Prussia. Immediately over the spot where the state carriage entered the avenue there were two little genii suspended by invisible wires, who, while thus hovering over the bridal couple, sustained a Royal crown in the air, as though awaiting the future day when it should descend by right of inheritance on their heads. On each side along this avenue, as well as around the Pariser-Platz and further down near the Schloss, were arranged the trades' companies, the masters in the front row, the journeymen in the second, with their flags, emblems, marshals, bands of music, and the professional jesters, the Haus Wurst of ancient days, but now the merry-making wavers of flags, which they throw high in the air, and catching them as they fall, whirl them round and about in every imaginable and impossible direction. This assemblage of the trades' companies numbered alone 28,000.

There were separate decorations of this festal Mall at every point where a cross-street intersected; while the accidental presence of certain barges in the canal over which the Schloss-Brücke leads gave rise to as pretty a demonstration as any to be found throughout the whole festal line. The vessels were hauled up close to the bridge, and had not only flagged and sported very appropriate banners in addition, but they had slung their tackle from mast to mast outside the bridge, across the road, and on these lines had hung transparencies that even by daylight were good-looking, and in the evening were highly effective. The whole distance of the line of procession from the monument of Frederick the Great down to the Schloss was marked out with a double line of flagstaffs, decorated as before described, and along the sides of this portion were to be found at every available point stands erected with seats for spectators, containing from a few hundred to 2,000 persons each, and ornamented with great skill, taste, and liberality. Nor were there many houses in the whole length of the festal line that did not sport some species of decoration, the very least of which consisted of two or more flags waving from the roof or upper windows; in many cases rich carpets were exhibited at the windows in the Italian style, and in rarer instances expensive and elaborate decorations of the entire façades had been got up. As the procession passed along, the entire mass of the spectators on both sides broke out into one long-continued cheer and shout of gratification, the male masses on the ground waving their hats,



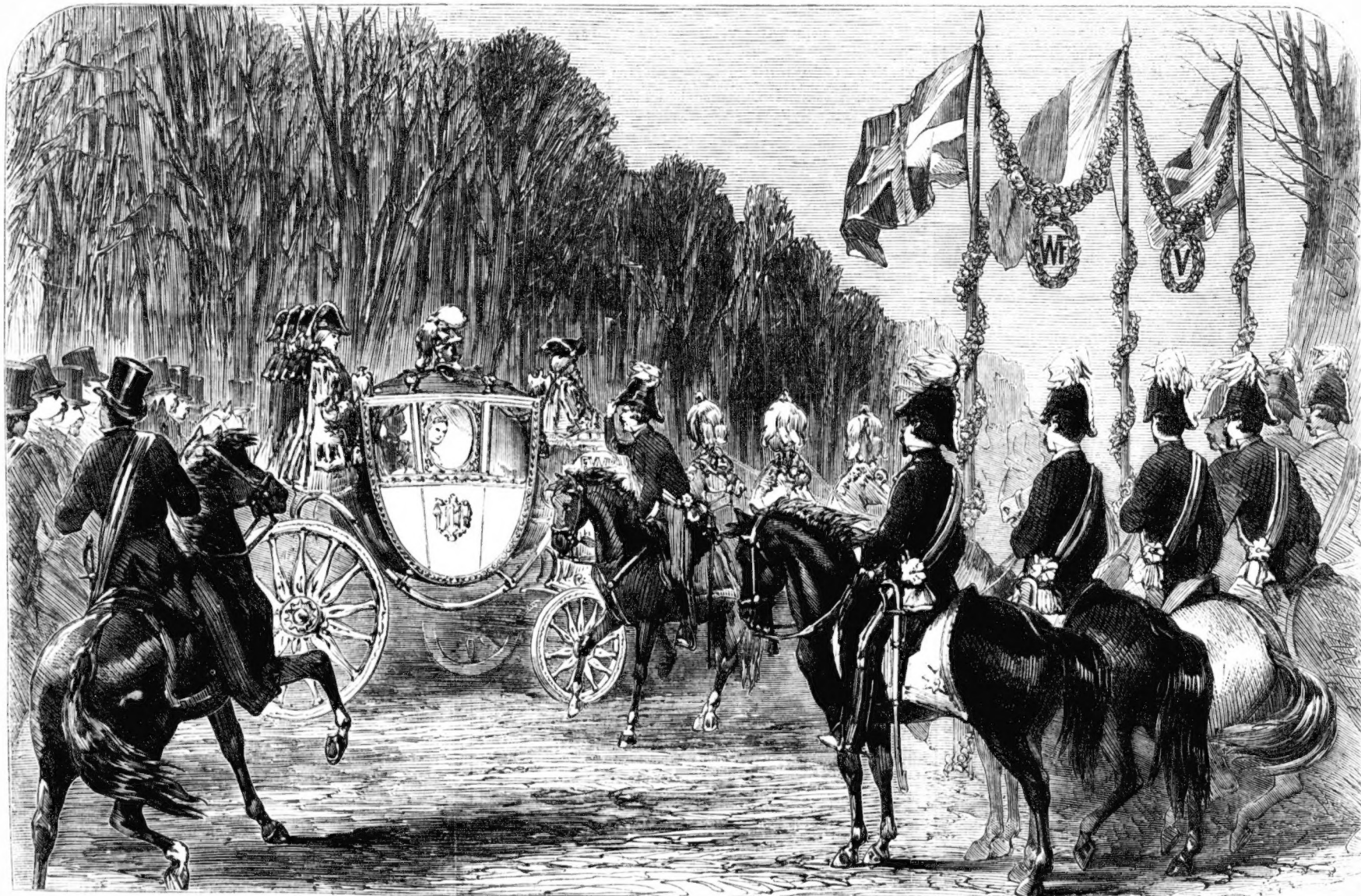
MEETING OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM AND THE PRINCE OF PRUSSIA AT THE RAILWAY STATION, POTSDAM.—(SEE PAGE 146.)

the fairer spectators at the windows waving their handkerchiefs. It resembled a human ocean roaring its delight, the dark billows of which beneath were crowned with the white surf of the rustling kerchiefs above.

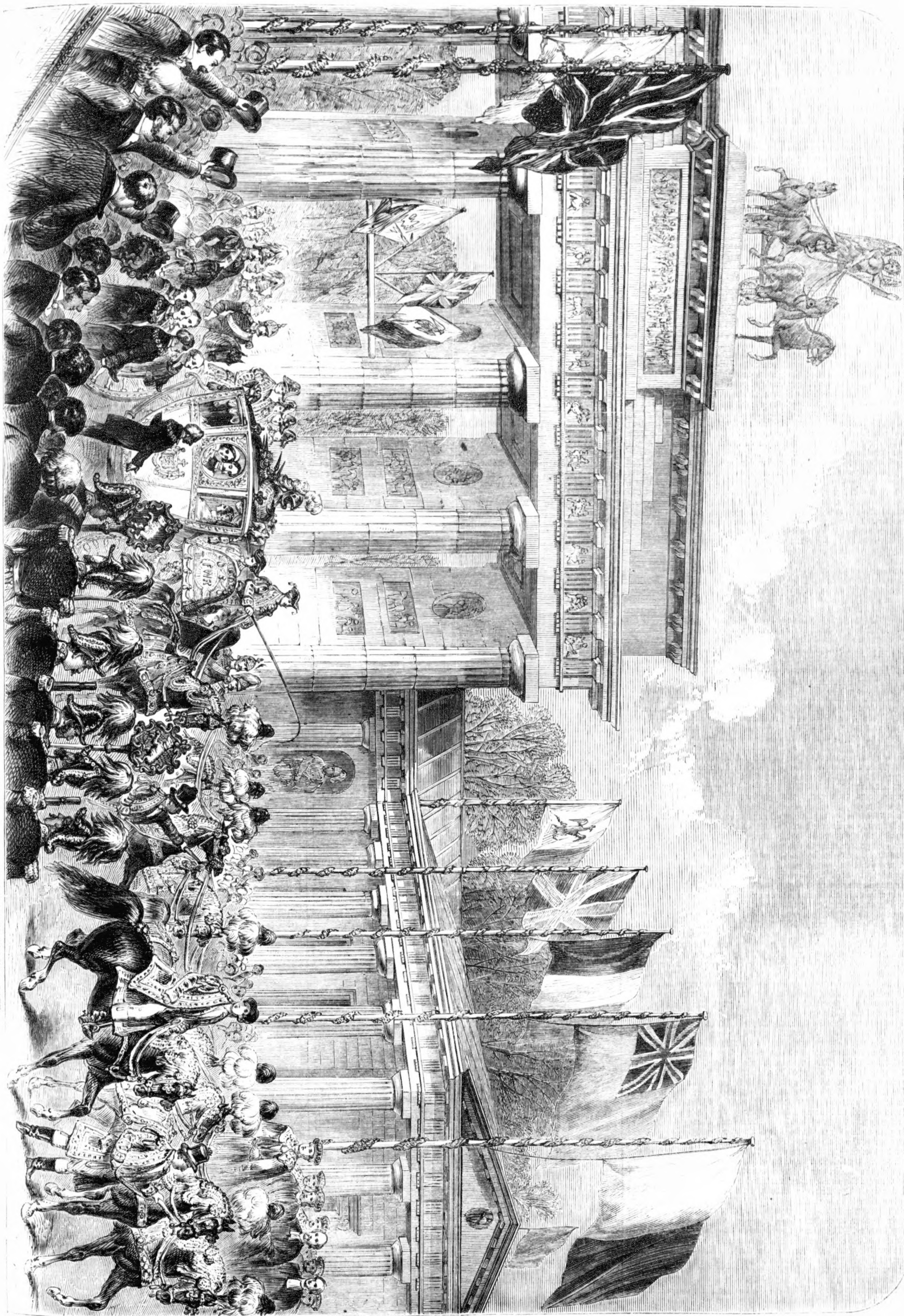
It was more than a quarter-past two o'clock before the state carriage reached the Schloss—the King's Palace—where the young couple were received by a guard of honour, a thickly-packed crowd of invited guests, who stood in the court-yards, all the officers of the Court, and

the Royal Princes; here the Prince of Prussia received his daughter-in-law very affectionately, and conducted her up stairs into the Schloss. At the entrance to the Schweizer Saal the Princess was received and welcomed by the Queen and all the Royal Princesses, and afterwards the young couple received the felicitations of the Knights of the Order of the Black Eagle, the Officers of the Royal Households, the Adjutants of the King and the Princes, the Generals and Lieutenant-Generals

of the Army, the Minister of State, the Privy Councillors, the Presidents of the two Houses of the Diet, &c. Their Royal Highnesses frequently came to the window to gaze at the spectacle of the different trades' companies marching through the courtyards of the Schloss, and each time they appeared, as well as each time they showed themselves to the multitude assembled in the Lust-Garten, they were vociferously welcomed.



RECEPTION OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM BY THE CITIZENS OF BERLIN.



PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES ARRIVING IN BERLIN: ARRIVAL OF THE ROYAL COUPLE AT THE BRANDENBURG GATE.

At four o'clock the Court proceeded to dinner, the young couple preceded by two pages and four chamberlains, and followed by two pages bearing the red velvet train of the Princess, and the ladies of her Royal Highness's household immediately afterwards. After this description of the numerous hearty and ample expressions of kind feeling from all classes of the population, from the lowest to the very highest, the report of an eye-witness will be readily believed that the countenances of the young couple, on entering the sumptuous White Salon, laid out for the banquet, expressed the liveliest gratification.

At the dinner the Prince of Prussia rose and gave the toast, "Their Majesties the King and Queen, her Majesty the Queen of England, and his Serene Highness the Prince Consort;" and again, after some little time, "The auspicious matrimonial alliance of Prussia and Great Britain, and the illustrious newly-married couple." After the banquet was over and the guests had retired, the Royal Family, together with their numerous relations present, drove about the town in a *cortège* of twenty carriages, to view the very extensive and brilliant illuminations, and were everywhere received by the people with the most hearty and vociferous exhibitions of gratification; after which the whole party took tea en famille at the Prince of Prussia's palace.

Next morning (Tuesday, the 9th) there was a *déjeuner d'adieu* in the apartments of the Prince and Princess Frederick-William, after which they received the congratulations of sixty young ladies, unmarried daughters of the various municipal officers of the city, dressed in bridal array. The young ladies being drawn up in a semicircle, the Prince led in the Princess on his arm, on which the daughter of the Oberbürgermeister stepped forward, and, with a few suitable words, presented to the Princess a poem in the name of the city, beautifully bound and illustrated, and lying on a velvet cushion encircled by a wreath of flowers.

The order of the festivities brought with it in the evening a *Cour* at seven o'clock, and a Polonaise ball at eight o'clock. The first consists of little else than an assemblage of all the high nobility and military and civil officers of State, together with such ladies as are entitled to appear at Court, in the different apartments assigned to them according to their rank, either hereditary or official, and to whom the august personages who hold the *Cour* (or, as we might say, drawing-room)—on this occasion the Prince and Princess Frederick-William—enter, and, after receiving the obeisances of the guests assembled, pass on to the next room, containing the next lower grade of nobility or official rank. But a grand gala ball in the White Salon of the Schloss, particularly now that its entire decorations have been completed, with reference to this occasion, is one of the most splendid scenes to be witnessed at any Court. The best help to the English reader will be if he recalls to mind the last scene of the "Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Princess's Theatre, and imagines the style of architecture and the dignity of the actors far more elevated.

The throne had been removed, and under its canopy, which remained, a small carpet was laid to mark the spot where the bridal couple would stand, the Royal Princesses stretching away in a curved line to the left of the Prince, the Royal Princes occupying a semicircle to the right of the Princess. The space kept open within the circle, marked out by pages stationed at intervals, was perhaps no larger than the largest London drawing-room; but the entire space behind the favoured foremost line was filled in with all the flower of the Prussian nation, comprising the high officers of State, all the civil, military, and naval officers, exclusive of subalterns, the members of the two Houses of the Diet, the *Corps Diplomatique*, all the nobility entitled to appear at Court, the rectors of the different universities in their rich velvet robes, and the members of the Provincial Estates in their brilliant costume (scarlet and gold with black velvet facings). Of the numerous ladies present, and who for the most part occupied estrades round the saloon or sofas advanced on to the floor, it was remarked that, with almost no exception, all wore a white silk or satin jupe, with a pink or blue robe and train. Thus, accidentally or otherwise, the English colours (red, blue, and white, as found in the union-jack) were constantly being combined. The Princess wore a white silk or moiré dress, embroidered down the front with silver in a pattern representing the twigs or branches of a rose-tree, and at each point where the bud might be supposed to form in nature, a rose of pink crape, as it appeared to us to be, grew out of the dress. The same with the rich pink robe and train, the greater part of which was thickly set with pink roses, and was carried by two pages, and held out to its full extent, apparently about twelve feet long. The pearl necklace, which we have already described as the present of the illustrious bridegroom, and the tiara of diamonds given to her by the Princess of Prussia, were worn by the Princess. Appended to the left shoulder was an order consisting of a medal suspended from a bow of black and white ribbon, which looked like the Louise order, and if so, must have been conferred on her by the Queen either that day or the day before.

After advancing into the saloon, preceded by pages, chamberlains, and the gentlemen of their own household, the Prince and Princess took up their position on the reserved carpet beneath the canopy, and, after permission accorded by the Prince of Prussia to the High Chamberlain, Count Redern, the Prince and Princess opened the ball by advancing and making their obeisances to the Prince and then to the Princess of Prussia, and subsequently to the company generally while passing round the open circle, preceded by the Chamberlains, &c. After two rounds the Princess was led round by each of her Royal uncles and cousins, the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and various other relatives, the assembled company receiving and returning their obeisances as they passed round, the orchestra playing the while a *Fackeltanz* (torch dance), composed by Count Redern, and then the "Wedding March" from Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream." When the Princess had at length "trod a measure" with each of her male relatives of Royal lineage, the Prince went through the same series of evolutions with his female relatives, commencing with his mother, the Princess of Prussia, each of the ladies' trains being borne by two pages at full length, as had been the case also with the Princess Frederick-William. With this the dance closed, and it had been in fact the *Fackeltanz* usually performed at this Court on occasion of Royal marriages, with the omission of the tapers and the substitution of Chamberlains, &c., in the place of the Ministers of State.

On Thursday evening (the 11th) the Prince and Princess of Prussia gave a very brilliant *soirée* to about 2,000 guests, among whom were all the most notable and distinguished persons that Prussia boasts of. The whole of the reception-rooms of the palace were entirely occupied by this festive assembly. The Prince and Princess Frederick-William appeared about half-past eight o'clock, and about the same time the various foreign Princes now on a visit to this Court, so that the Polonaise was almost immediately commenced after their arrival, the Prince of Prussia leading Princess Frederick-William, after which the ball was considered opened, and the series of appointed dances commenced. The same afternoon, at four o'clock, the Prince and Princess Charles of Prussia gave a state dinner in honour of the newly-married couple.

Next evening the Prince and Princess, in company with almost all the members of the Court, were present at a subscription ball at the Opera House. On this first occasion of coming, as it were, into direct contact with the public, our Princess was led forward by the Prince of Prussia through the surrounding multitude into the mazy lines of the first Polonaise. The Princess wore a pink dress, with a diadem of brilliants and roses in her hair.

The *Fackeltanz*, a torch-light procession got up by the students of Berlin in honour of the marriage, came off with great success on Saturday evening. The place of rendezvous was the Pariser Platz, at the entrance of the city from the Brandenburg-Thor. On this open ground four fires were kept burning for the torches to be lit at when the moment for the procession moving forward should come. Here the students of the University assembled to the number of a thousand. Having lit their torches, the students got into procession at about half-past six o'clock, and proceeded from the Pariser Platz down the promenade Unter-den-Linden to the Schloss, where they took up their

position in the street of the apartments occupied there by the Prince and Princess Frederick-William.

The torches, as the students offered no deviation from their usual dress, but the leaders of the different battalions, and the standard-bearers, all of whom were on horseback, indulged in costumes for which historical tradition may have furnished the fundamental idea, but which were indebted chiefly to rich imagination and a love of the picturesque for their varied elaboration. The long lines of torchbearers were drawn up in the Lust-Garten, the mounted marshals and the standard-bearers in full prominence, and here various appropriate songs were sung in full chorus to well-known students' tunes, while the Managing Committee entered the Schloss, and proceeded to deliver their address. At its conclusion, and after the Prince had returned thanks in a few well-chosen warm expressions, the whole assembly outside cheered their Royal Highnesses in one long-continued volley, at a signal given from one of the windows of the palace; and this cheer was renewed more vociferously still when the Prince and Princess stepped out upon the balcony to thank the students for their treat, which was done by their simply showing themselves and bowing.

The entire body then moved off, "in long order due," to a large open plot of ground in front of the House of Deputies, and the ceremony to be observed here was the burning out of the torches. This is performed by the torches being thrown upon the ground in a heap, and there burning out in form of a bonfire. As the long line of a thousand torches marching three deep came upon the open ground, it described a variety of sinuous serpentine lines before forming into a circle, resembling a glow-worm with the proportions of the great sea-serpent; and as the small dark figures of the first divisions, as seen from a high point, stood first in circular array, and then, after brandishing their torches awhile, threw them one after another on the ground, the long luminous line of the succeeding divisions delving in the distant darkness, one had as pretty a picture of Paganism, in a small way, as the imagination of Milton or John Milton could devise. This effect was heightened from time to time by various students throwing their torches high in air, so as for them to fall into the heap rapidly forming in the centre, and as one party got rid of their flaming brands, room was made for the following divisions to march up, cast in their fiery quota, and file off to the side.

But "all that's bright must fade," even a procession of torches, and the end of this one was peculiarly ignominious. Uninvited and unobserved, a two-wheeled vehicle, sporting also its numerous torches, had joined on to the tail of the procession, and presently the impetuous and perturbed clanking of a bell close to the driver's seat announced a fire-on-line. Shouts, jeers, and threats received the representatives of the Fear-weir, and the drawn swords of the students flashing in the still towering flame of the hobnob of torches, looked imposing enough at a distance, but it did not impose upon the police and the firemen, who forced their way into the circle and soon put a stop to the "flare-up" of the students. These latter, however, consoled themselves with a grand nocturnal *Witz*, at which toasts were given to the King, to the Prince of Prussia, to the young married pair, and to German unity.

The foregoers of every day since the public entry into the city have been devoted by the Prince and Princess Frederick-William to the reception of addresses from all sorts and conditions of men.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. NO. 60. SIR JOHN PAKINGTON.

IN the political turmoil of 1852 it was that Sir John Pakington was thrown up from the abyss. He had been a member of Parliament since 1837, but was then so little known that the Duke of Wellington is reported to have exclaimed, when he heard of the worthy Baronet's appointment to the Colonies—"Sir John Pakington! why, I never heard of the gentleman." Since then, however, Sir John has been a prominent man in the House—has sat on the front bench of the Opposition side—has been considered one of the leading men of his party—and in every important debate has generally delivered a lengthy harangue. Sir John's speeches, though he is now a Right Honourable, and was once a Cabinet Minister, are not very eagerly listened to by the House, nor do we believe that they are read in the "Times," excepting, it may be, by a certain class of old fogies at the clubs, who always make a point of reading all the debates, by some of Sir John's constituents, or members of his family. For the Right Honourable Baronet is an exceedingly prosy speaker, and one of these members who "take no note of time." An old Quaker once complained when he and three others had been kept waiting a quarter of an hour for a gentleman, that the lagard had wasted an hour. He arrived at the conclusion by multiplying the quarter by four. A very true calculation, no doubt; but if so, how many hours do Sir John and such worthies waste in the course of a session? If only 200 members stop through one of Sir John's speeches of an hour in length, no less than seventeen days of twelve hours are lost. Two hundred members, it will be said, is rather a low figure. And so it is; but Sir John rarely gets so large a number. For as soon as he rises to make one of his set speeches, it is wonderful to see how quietly and silently the House sits. When some speakers rise, there is a rush to the door; but Sir John, in virtue of his position, is treated with some show of respect. When he speaks the members will go, but they pass out noiselessly; some to their letters; some to the refreshment room; others to the library to read; and not a few "go down below to have a smoke." And these that remain, if we may judge from appearances, do not stop, excepting in a few instances, to listen, but quietly and easily go off into a reverie or a snore. When the worthy Baronet delivered himself of his speech on education last week, the House was very thin, exceedingly quiet, and to at least three-fourths of the members present he was as if he spoke not. Lord Palmerston was fast asleep. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, if not asleep, was clearly ruminating on a very different subject. And the few other members of the Government who were present, were as all-unconscious of what was going on as that worthy countryman at church, who said, he "liked to go there on a Sunday afternoon, coz he could lay up his legs and think of nothin." And yet Sir John has probably the reputation amongst some people of being a good speaker. In Worcestershire, where he was for a long time chairman of the Quarter Sessions, he is no doubt a "great gun" in the speaking line. For he is very fluent, never hesitates nor lingers for a moment; and never for an instant loses the thread of his discourse. He will often travel away from his subject into a parenthesis of a quarter of an hour's length; he never, however, loses his way, but comes back to the point whence he started as unerringly as a well-trained setter. Indeed, he often reminds us of that sagacious animal beating a field; he is so sedulous in exhausting his ground; so cautious not to leave a yard untraversed. He may have often been over the field before, and other members may have followed in his steps, but that is of no consequence. He has undertaken the task of beating that field, and he will do it. A very industrious, painstaking man is Sir John. His voice is a very singular one, and not by any means pleasant. There is no music in it. Fancy a prolonged note on a bad saphirina, and you have something like Sir John's voice. In person Sir John is short and small, and he has a remarkably large nose, something of the aquiline sort. In dressing he is notable, not exactly dandyified, but exceedingly neat and prim. His tailor must be a first-rate artist, for not a wrinkle is ever seen in his clothes. His boots are of the finest patent leather. And we should imagine that he must have a new hat at least once a month. And so brisk and smart is he, that you would not dream that he is nearly sixty years old—but that is his age within a year. It is right to say that Sir John is very much respected in the House, all his failings notwithstanding; and that in Worcestershire he has the reputation of being a very useful and charitable man.

THE GREAT EAST INDIA DEBATE.

Great when the magnitude of the subject is considered, but otherwise not great. It began on Friday night the 14th, and intense was the excitement both inside and outside of the House. Every place set apart for strangers was filled at an early hour, and some hundreds came down in the course of the evening in the hope of getting in. "Under the

gallery" the direction of the East India Company were in motion. And the peers were so numerous that some were obliged to sit on the Ambassadors' place. Lord Derby was there; Baron Parker, Lord W. E. Russell, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, Lord Cardigan, the Duke of Devon and Oxford, Lord Granville, &c., &c. We also noticed the silvery hair of Mr. Dallas, the American Ambassador, shiny as light, up stairs. Also the Sardinian Ambassador, Russia was represented. We rather think the Count Chreptowitch, who is a constant attendant at the House, is gone to Paris, and that he has not yet made his appearance. Inside the House the atmosphere of members was very large. We reckon that there were at least 100 members. The body of the House was crowded, and there was not a spare seat in the side galleries. Lord Palmerston began his speech at five o'clock, and we supposed that he would occupy a quarter and-a-half or three hours. The subject is of the gravest importance, and we could hardly imagine that his Lordship would be able to give his reasons for so bold a measure as the revolutionising the Government of India in a less time than we have named. But to our astonishment he closed his speech in less than an hour and a half. It was a speech, alike unworthy of the subject and of the speaker. The speaker, however, plain that Lord Palmerston takes very little pains to get up his Parliamentary speeches. When he moved a vote of thanks to the army he was all abroad, and but for the prayers of his colleagues, he would have made some serious mistakes. The fact, we believe, is, that Lord Palmerston, though a wonder for his years, begins to feel the effects of age, and cannot carry out difficulty, conquer his work as he used to do ten years ago. In 1818, when he defended himself, he spoke for three hours and a half, and doubtless, if he could have done it, he would have delivered a more elaborate and satisfactory speech on Friday. The speaker demanded a historic speech—one that could be looked to by posterity in future ages as a record of reasons for so great a measure. But Lord Palmerston's harangue was nothing of the sort, nor was it elevated or supplemented by anything that followed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke even better than usual, but was hardly up to the occasion. There was, however, one remarkable feature about Sir John Cornwall Lewis's address on this occasion—he actually made the House laugh. Knowingly and wilfully, and evidently with great thought, the Honourable Baronet perpetrated a joke; and what is more wonderful still, he laughed himself. Of course he did not laugh at Lord Palmerston does; but still it was unquestionably a laugh. And this, we may expect the hippopotamus at the Zoological Gardens to relax his grim features into a smile. Mr. Thomas Baring was the chosen champion of the Company, and a very clever man he is; but on this occasion he did not shine; neither did Mr. Mangles, the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Mr. Gladstone was not there, nor was James Graham. Mr. Cardwell was present, but did not speak, nor Mr. Disraeli. On the whole, it was a very dull night, unrelieved by a single really good speech. At eight the House was very thinly attended; and as it was understood that no division would take place that night, but comparatively few of the members returned after dinner.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate on Monday was only remarkable for one of Mr. Whiteside's tremendous harangues. On this occasion the Honourable and Learned Member, in extravagance of action, went far beyond everything that he had hitherto achieved in the House. His physical evolutions were wonderful, and would have exhausted and laid prostrate for a week any other member in the House. The most energetic orators in the House seldom do more than swing the body backwards and forwards, like Sir Bulwer Lytton, and energetically put their arms to give force to their words; but when Mr. Whiteside speaks, every muscle of his tall, ungainly person is put into motion. He shrugs his shoulders to his ears, throws about his legs, pulls up his trousers, clasps his hands, convulsively flings back his head as if he were invoking the gods, retires, springs forward, stamps, and, in short, so writhes and rages, and contorts his body, that if you were to shut your ears and look at him you could not fail to decide that the Honourable Gentleman was mad. He "over-tops the modesty of nature" with a vengeance, "o'er-deeds Termagant," "ent-herods Herod" in a manner that the "groundlings" of no penny theatre would tolerate. But on Monday night his extravagance was frightful. We were obliged to shut our eyes. And when he left of speaking, we felt so exhausted, that we needed a "tightener" to string up our nerves to their wonted tension. It is really a pity that the Honourable and Learned Gentleman cannot put his body under a little restraint when he speaks, for he is naturally an eloquent man; and if he would be content to address the House calmly, he would be an effective speaker. But now his speeches are all thrown away. Such tempests and whirlwinds of passion may be effective in carrying away an Irish jury, but they are quite out of place in the House of Commons.

THE DEBATE POSTPONED.

The debate on this Bill was to have been renewed on Tuesday, but Mr. Grogan and Mr. H. Baillie obstinately stopped the way. Mr. Grogan with a motion on the Dublin police—which took some two hours; and Mr. Baillie with one for certain papers and despatches on that vexed question—the annexation of Oude—which occupied the remainder of the night. Lord Palmerston promised at once the papers, but Mr. Baillie had two objects—first, to make a speech; and secondly, to get the papers. Lord Palmerston's prompt compliance could not, therefore, remove the impediment which stood in the way of the adjourned debate; for Mr. Baillie having made a long speech, Mr. Vernon Smith was obliged to reply, and this of course led to other speeches, and as the beginning of a discussion in the House, like the beginning of strife, is as the letting out of water, the talking upon this matter was kept up till midnight, and the adjourned debate was postponed until Thursday. Groups of members were hanging about all night, summoned to divide on the great question, and their remarks upon the obstinacy of Mr. Baillie were by no means complimentary. But what of that? He made his speech, it appeared in the "Times," and what drudgery will not some men go through to obtain such a gratification? When he saw these two columns of type in the paper spread before him on his breakfast table on Wednesday, all the discontent and murmurs which he had provoked were as the idle wind which he regarded not.

NEW SPEAKERS.

Two new members addressed the House on Tuesday, Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff and Sir Henry Rawlinson. Mr. Duff is member for the Elgin District; he succeeded Mr. George Skene Duff. Several other members arose with Mr. Duff, but, according to the courteous rule of the House, gave way for the new member. Mr. Duff went off like a rocket, seemed, however, soon as if he would break down, but getting courage from the kind cheers of the House, he recovered, and succeeded in delivering himself of the speech which he had evidently got by heart with tolerable success. Whether he will ever be an effective speaker remains to be seen. First attempts in the House of Commons proverbially do not settle a speaker's position in the House of Commons. Sir Henry Rawlinson delivered a calm and instructive statement, which was listened to with great respect. But Sir Henry is an older man than Mr. Duff, is an East Indian Director, and has been accustomed to speak to a public assembly, and is, moreover, a man of high reputation and of great experience in Indian matters. There were no other speaker of note this evening, and on the whole we were very dull.

SAVINGS-BANKS.—The number of accounts open at the savings-banks throughout the United Kingdom on the 20th of November, 1856, was 1,321,599; the total amount owing to depositors on that day £31,700,255; of which nearly all was invested with the Public Debt Commissioners, the balances remaining in the hands of treasurers amounting only to £225,070. The average rate of interest paid on the deposits was 42 1/2 s. per cent. The number of payments to depositors in the year ended 20th of November, 1856, was 791,762, and the number of receipts from depositors 1,544,762. The average amount of payments to depositors was £5 0s. 1d., and the average amount of payments thereto £10 1s. 8d.



VIEW OF MAGDEBURG.

MAGDEBURG.

Magdeburg, one of the places through which the Royal couple passed on their route to Berlin, as described in our last week's number, is a strongly-fortified Prussian town, with its citadel built on an island in the river Elbe. It has a fine cathedral, and is distinguished for its manufactures of cottons, woollens, gloves, lace, porcelain, and tobacco. It has an active trade, which is facilitated by steam packets on the Elbe. The town is very ancient, having been in existence so far back as the 8th century. It was at one time a member of the Hanseatic League, and long capital of an archbishopric, which was secularised at the peace of Westphalia. Otho von Guericke, inventor of the air-pump, was born here in 1602. It suffered much during the religious wars of the 16th and

17th centuries; especially in 1631, when it was sacked by the Imperialists and nearly destroyed. The French took it in 1806, and annexed it to the kingdom of Westphalia.

THE PALACE OF PRINCE FREDERICK-WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA AT BERLIN.

The palace, Unter-den-Linden, in which Frederick-William III. resided, was left for many years after the death of that monarch in much the same state as it was at the time of his decease. It occupies an admirable position, being opposite to the arsenal, and with wide streets on either side. The palace itself contains a considerable courtyard. Shortly before the marriage of Prince Frederick-William it was presented to him by his uncle the King, and it has since undergone such

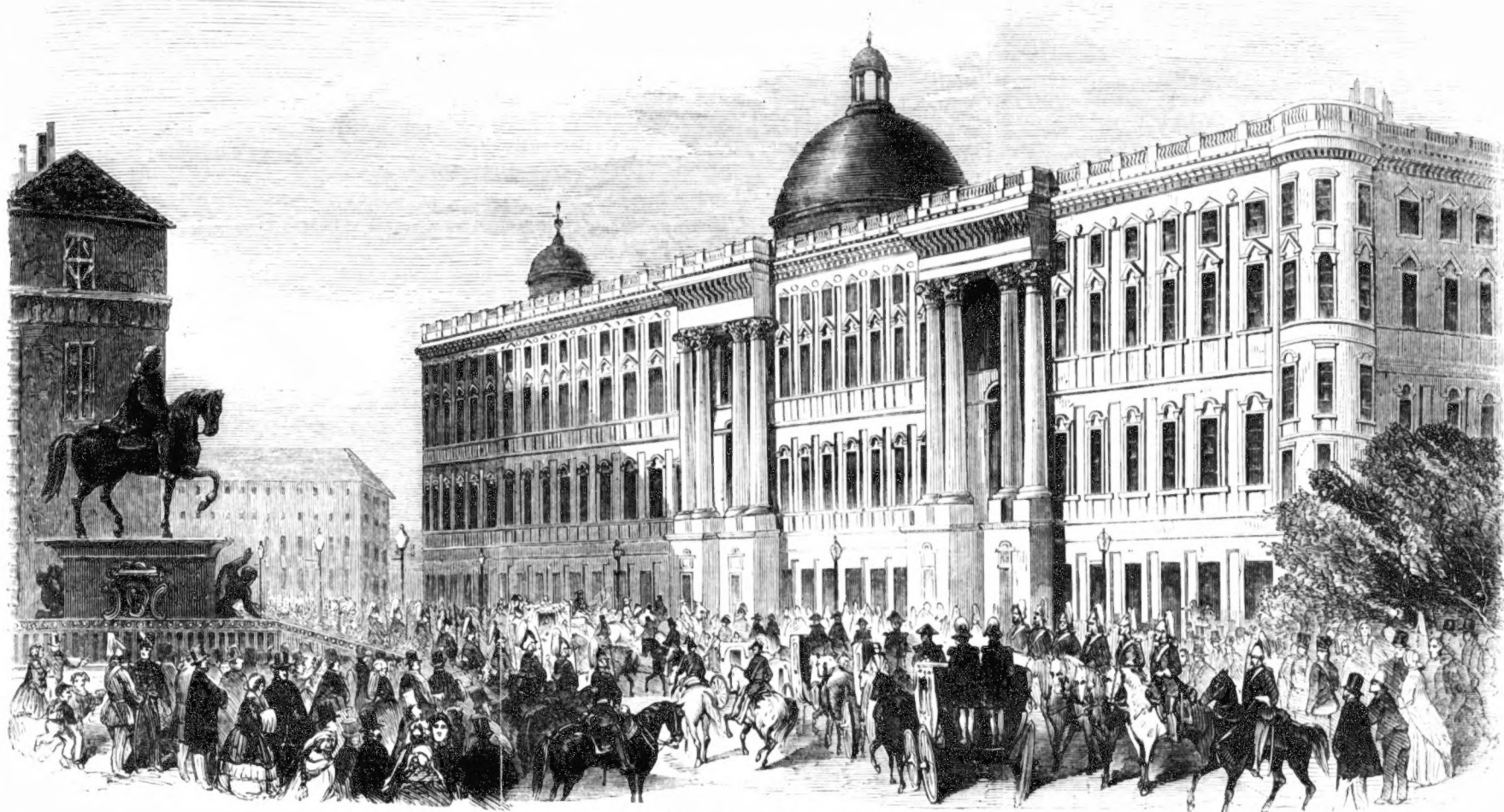
an extensive restoration as has almost involved the rebuilding of the structure. On the present page we give an external view of the palace; the interior is at the present time in too incomplete a state to furnish materials for artistic representation. It is being decorated under the superintendence of Professor Strack. Among other matters of interest which the future residence of the Royal couple is to contain, will be a museum of art, science, and industry. This will be a separate erection of an octagon form, and surmounted by a dome. The interior will be embellished with suitable artistic decorations.

BERLIN.

The Brandenburg Gate, at Berlin, through which the young couple made their state entry into the capital of Prussia, is a colossal structure,



THE PALACE OF PRINCE FREDERICK-WILLIAM AT BERLIN.

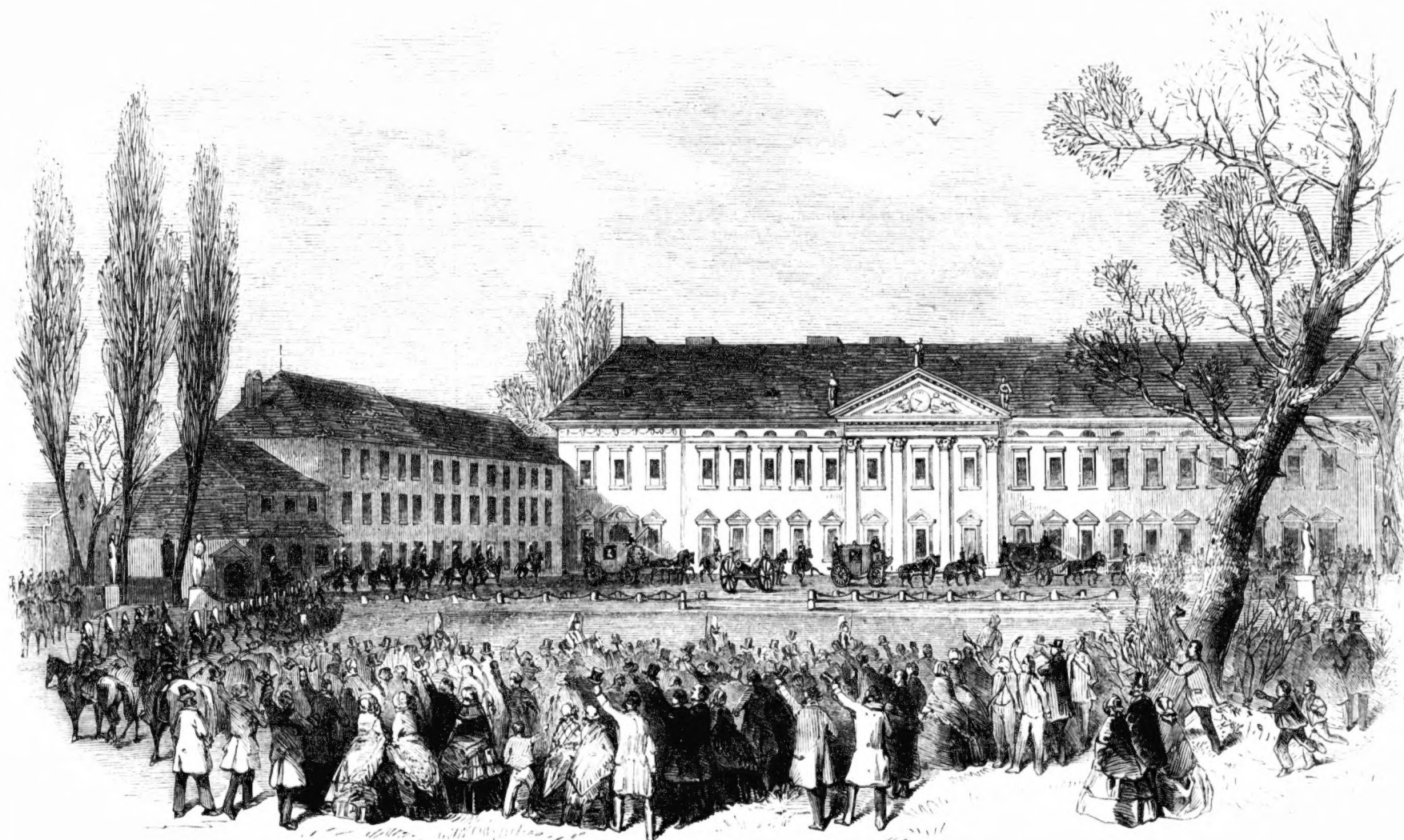


THE KING'S PALACE AT BERLIN.

surmounted by a victory, in a car drawn by four horses, and one of the most elegant of the kind in Europe. It was carried to Paris in 1807, and restored in 1814. Of the forty bridges crossing the Spree and its branches, of which Berlin boasts, the principal are the long bridge, with an equestrian statue of the great Elector Frederick-William; the Schloss-Brücke, or Palace Bridge, with groups of heroes in marble; and Frederick's Bridge, consisting of eight arches, and constructed of iron. The city generally is regular and handsome, but the houses are of little elevation. The finest streets are in Friedrich and Dorotheen Stadt; the most celebrated is that called "Unter-den-Linden," a broad and im-

posing street, planted with four rows of lime trees, ornamented by an equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, terminated by the Brandenburg Gate at the one end, and the Royal Palace at the other. Around the principal squares and streets are grouped numerous public buildings, among which are the Royal Castle and Palace, the arsenal, university, museums, exchange, opera-house, theatres, and the palaces of the princes. The suburbs have many attractions, among which are the Thier-garten, a large open park outside of the Brandenburg gate, in which a "corso" has been recently established, and the Kreuzberg, a sandhill, south of the gate of Halle, on which is erected an iron

monument to the memory of the Prussians who fell in the wars of Napoleon, and whence the only good view of the city is obtained. Berlin is the great centre of instruction and intellectual development in Northern Germany; its educational establishments are numerous and celebrated. It has extensive public libraries, royal museums of painting, sculpture, antiquities, coins, and medals, a museum of natural history, a royal astronomical and magnetic observatory, and a royal botanic garden, one of the richest and most complete in Europe. It has two royal theatres; and its celebrated opera house, burned down in 1843, was rebuilt in 1844.



ARRIVAL OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM AT BELLEVUE.—(SEE PAGE 155.)

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

THE spring season at Her Majesty's Theatre is being brought to a close with the Italian version of Bellini's "Bohemian Girl." Every one knows that the "Bohemian Girl" is founded on the subject of that justly-celebrated ballet, "La Gitana;" and those who are members of that "La Gitana" means "The Gipsy." In English, and in French, "Bohémienne" in French, and who are also aware that M. de Saint-George wrote the *libretto* which Mr. Bunn afterwards translated and claimed as his own composition, will understand how the title of the "Bohemian Girl" came to be applied to an opera with which neither Bohemia nor Bohemians have any sort of connection. M. de Saint-George wrote "La Bohémienne" on the title-page of his "Book;" and Mr. Bunn, having probably mislaid his French dictionary, was betrayed by an undue confidence in his knowledge of the great dramatic language of the nineteenth century into one of the most absurd blunders ever committed by an English adapter.

The Italians do not call the opera the "Bohemian Girl;" they call it by its proper title, the Gipsy—"La Zingara." The names are retained as in the English version, and if we except a judicious abridgement of the buffo part, originally taken by Harley, the piece has been at Her Majesty's Theatre corresponds scene by scene with the original. It is some fourteen or fifteen years since at Drury Lane, though the acts are not divided precisely in the same manner. The dialogue has, of course, been put into recitative, and three new airs have been introduced; one in the first act for Giuglini, and two in the ball-room scene of the last act for Piccolomini. The latter of Piccolomini's two new airs was substituted on the second or third night for the pretty *romanza*, which Miss Rainsforth used to sing, and which Piccolomini also sang the first evening. All the new music may be considered laudable in this objection, that it does not accord with the general character of the work. The *prima donna's* last air is simply a very brilliant vocal exercise, and the two others—one of which, as we have said, is for the tenor—are in the style not of the English ballad but of the Italian *bravura*. However, the great success of the piece—and its success is great and unequivocal—depends as heretofore upon the ballads. Belletti is encased in "The Heart bowed down," Piccolomini in "I dreamt that I dwelt," Giuglini—bowed down, but twice and three times—in "When I look on you."

Concerts are now being organised in all parts of London. There are the occasional "orchestral concerts" at St. Martin's Hall, and a series of "Monday evening concerts" are being given at low prices in St. Martin's Lane.

Among the new music that has lately reached us we may mention—"Prince Frederick-William's March," a spirited composition by Miss Ellen Glasseck (Metzler).

Four admirable "Octave Studies," by Brinley Richards, in which the studies are not only useful as exercises, but also agreeable as compositions (Chappell and Co.).

A brilliant and not too difficult fantasia on airs from the "Huguenots," by the same composer (Chappell & Co.).

"The Holy Family," of which the first series consists of selections (by W. H. Calcott) from the sacred music of Handel, Hummel, Zaccaro, Rossini, Haydn and Mendelssohn—the wrapper being illustrated with a coloured engraving of Raphael's "Virgin in the Chair."

"Tapping at the window," and "Wait till I put my bonnet on," by Charles Swain and Carlo M. the music of the former being lively and clever, that of the latter common-place, the word's common-place in each case, and anything but comic.

"The Young Recruit," a danceable quadrille, by P. Glover, introducing Jetty Treffz's popular air with the same title, and other more or less military tunes.

"My Mother's Gentle Word," and "A Mother's last Farewell," two highly sentimental ballads by Messrs. Carpenter and Wrighton. The last six pieces are published by Cocks and Co.

MEMORIAL OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851.

UNDER the auspices of Alderman Challis, a fund was raised some time since to defray the expenses of a memorial of the Great Exhibition of 1851, for which artists of all nations were invited to produce. Sculptors and architects had full liberty allowed them to select in any kind of sculptural or architectural device they might deem appropriate, and the result has been a very great variety in the models, of which thirty-nine are now being exhibited in the architectural department of the South Kensington Museum. The competitors are distinguished by mottoes and legends, the anonymous system being preserved as strictly as in the case of the competition for the Public Offices and for the Wellington Monument.

The mention of the Wellington Monument suggests to us that it is not a monument of the Great Exhibition, but a memorial that is required to be set up in Hyde Park; and there is something very different between the solemn quasi-funeral monument and the ever-grateful memorial or *souvenir*. Accordingly, those artists who have seen in simple obelisks and pillars, bearing laconic inscriptions which read like epitaphs, have fallen into a very grave error. Nothing of the "Huguenot" character should be adopted. This appears to us indispensable, though we have no similar conviction as to which models ought to be chosen.

We would certainly, however, not select a colossal pedestal, surmounted by a statue of Prince Albert, even when surrounded by Victory, Slumbering War, and the Angel of Peace; but we do think that a statue of her Majesty, or a personification of London, should be the principal figure. Neither the Queen nor Prince Albert will award the prize, and it can scarcely be imagined that the insufferable tediousness which some of the competing sculptors have exhibited, will procure them the honour they covet, in the face of their utter contempt of art, taste, and common sense. The worst of this class of designs is No. 17, in which the Prince Consort appears as "The instructor of youth" (the sculptor's own words). He is represented in the act of imparting knowledge to a small boy, who, as far as we can make it out, has just been caught playing at marbles. At the corners of the quadrilateral pedestal are those popular personifications—the Four Quarters of the Globe.

Some of the competitors, feeling, no doubt, that they will have to deal with the bureaucracy and not with the Throne, have devoted their energies to the glorification of the Commissioners and the Executive Committee. This appeal to the Commissioners and the committee will however, we trust, be less successful even than that to the Throne.

On some of the models there are *bassi-reliefs* of the Great Exhibition building. Unwisely as that building necessarily appears when thus represented, either in marble or bronze, there is at the same time both sense and justice in preserving some substantial record of the edifice.

The model which represents the Genius of Civilisation seated on a rock, exhibits vigour and originality. Perhaps it attaches too much significance to the institution of international exhibitions; and we are inclined to think that the rock on which civilisation is based is something higher than a gigantic bazaar supported by dealers of all nations; a conception, moreover, which had not even the merit of novelty, as a precedent existed in the fairs of the middle-ages, to say nothing of those of Beaune and Nijni-Novgorod in the present day.

None of the designs for temples are very successful, and there is generally an amount of personification which passes the absurd and reaches the ludicrous. One sculptor, not content with giving us an energetic embodiment of machinery and a graceful one of the Fine Arts ("Art" he should have called it), must also personify "Raw Materials." Only imagine the genius or spirit of "Raw Materials!"

Those designs which treat the Great Exhibition as the precursor of universal peace, are the work of men who have neither reason nor memory. The next great event which followed the Great Exhibition was the Russian War, and, putting this fact aside, is it probable that what has not been accomplished by the Christian religion will ever be wrought about by an international law?

LAW AND CRIME.

LOUIS BRIDGEMAN has caused to be prepared a bill intended to abolish the last remnant of our old law of imprisonment for debt. Philanthropically, and upon a broad principle, to imprison a man because he is poor, money appears neither humane nor politic. But, in practice, no creditor ever wishes to imprison his debtor, and no debtor is so unscrupulous as to wish himself so placed. These may be startling assertions, but they are nevertheless true. All that the creditor requires is payment of the amount awarded to him upon the judgment of the court in which he has sued, and he seizes on the person of the debtor only to enforce such payment. Without such power of enforcement, half the actions in our courts would be a mere increase of loss to the plaintiffs. Honest tradesmen recover their debts in numerous cases, simply because their debtors dread this penalty of arrest. It is a known fact to every attorney and sheriff's officer, that half the executions issued against defendant's goods are utterly worthless. Defendant has "made over" his goods, he is living in premises furnished with those belonging to another person, his rent is in arrear to an amount exceeding the value of the effects. But when he is captured, one of two results must happen. He must either satisfy the action, or apply to the Court of Bankruptcy or Insolvency. He cannot defeat an execution against his "body" by a bill of sale, or a fictitious claim for rent. The longer he remains in prison, the longer the creditor remains in anxiety as to whether the debt and costs be lost or not. The creditor therefore has no possible interest in requiring his debtor's imprisonment as imprisonment merely. Only, nothing so strongly directs the attention of a debtor to the necessity of promptly settling any particular claim, as does his being arrested for the amount. We have said, moreover, that no debtor need be arrested, unless he please. Any trader whose debts are less than £300, or any person not a trader, owing money to any amount whatever, may apply to the Insolvent Court, and obtain, at a small charge, protection from arrest, unless he have previously disqualified himself by fraud, by disposal of his property, or by preference to particular creditors. If a trader and his debts be above £300, the Bankruptcy Court will afford him protection. Why, then, it may be asked, do people ever allow themselves to be arrested? Because the commercial morality and the commercial chances of the day are such, that debtors pay and speculate to the last rag of capital and reputation, before they will, as they ought, fairly yield up their estate to their creditors when first clearly insolvent. Let imprisonment for debt be abolished by all means, if any other means can be devised for driving a defendant to pay a particular creditor, or give up his estate for his creditors in general. But if imprisonment be abolished, and no efficient substitute provided, the effect will be the relief of the dishonest debtor at the sacrifice of the honest trader. Poor, persecuted, deserving, but unfortunate men, may sometimes be found in jail; but the great majority of prison inmates are of a very different class.

It is a most curious circumstance, that after all the urgent necessity alleged to exist for the passing of the Conspiracy Bill, the law in its present state should have been so clearly proved to be equal to the contingency, as it has been in the case of M. Bernard. We will not speculate as to the truth of the charge, which may be completely unfounded. But it is clear that for the offence charged the prisoner has been arrested, brought before an English magistrate, and retained in custody.

A man using the initials A. B. caused to be published an advertisement in a newspaper offering a probability of employment to a large number of artisans upon receiving from each, post-paid, an envelope enclosing a postage stamp. Hundreds of the wretched unemployed were duped by the announcement. Some of them pawned articles of their children's clothes to pay for the postage stamps. They applied to a magistrate for redress, and a woman, announcing herself as "Mrs. A. B.," appeared to deny all intention of fraud on the part of the advertiser. This was merely a contrivance to gain time, for immediately afterwards A. B. and his wife absconded, leaving their boxes behind. These the husband detained to cover certain expenses she had been put to by being forced to provide food and drink for several of A. B.'s victims, in order to prevent their rage from venting itself in a riot. A. B. has summoned his landlady for the detention of the goods, and Mr. Poynter, to whom she stated her case, mentioned that if this were proved to be true, he should not order her to restore the property until she received compensation.

We have already alluded to the case of the County Court Judge who refused to take a reference sent down to him by order of the Court of Exchequer, in which the Act which cast upon him and his colleagues the duty of deciding such matters did not provide any remuneration for their services. A rule was obtained, calling upon the Learned Gentleman to show cause for his disobedience of the order and statute, and his reasons were considered unsatisfactory by the Court *in banco*. Any further disobedience would now subject him to an attachment.

A solicitor named Vessey was charged with stealing £200 in £20 notes. He had attended at the London and Westminster Bank, City branch, to receive £200, which he requested might be paid in notes of £20 each, of which denomination the clerk inadvertently paid him twenty. The error was discovered, and Vessey was applied to for the overpayment, which he denied having received. One of the notes was traced to a man to whom it had been given to change by Vessey's servant, who had found it under the kitchen table, where it appeared to have been accidentally dropped. This man swore that Vessey had told him that the detectives were after him (witness) for changing the note, had given him directions for changing his appearance, and had shown him how to write his name in different styles to avoid identification of witness's endorsement upon the note. It is fair to add that the defendant's counsel declared him to be a respectable man. As the magistrate did not think the evidence sufficient to substantiate the criminal charge, the case was dismissed. We may mention that the bank has a right of action against Vessey to recover the sum they overpaid by mistake.

TRIAL OF THE BRITISH BANK DIRECTORS.

THIS long-talked-of trial commenced on Saturday morning last, in the Court of Queen's Bench at Guildhall, which had been much altered for the occasion. The court was densely crowded; and on the bench were—the Prince of Wales, Lady Stratheden, the Hon. Miss Campbell, the Hon. Miss Osborne, Lord Overstone, and Mr. Gibbs.

The defendants—Humphrey Brown, Edward Esdaile, Henry Dunning Macleod, Lorraine de Wolfe Cochrane, Richard Hartley Kennedy, William Daniel Owen, John Stapledon, Hugh James Cameron, Lockhart Mure Vane, and Frederick Valiant—were arraigned on several counts, which charged a conspiracy to publish and represent to such of the shareholders and the public generally as were ignorant, &c., that the bank and its affairs had been during the half-year ended the 31st of December, 1855, and then were, in a sound and prosperous condition, producing profits divisible, &c., the defendants well knowing the contrary, &c., with intent to deceive and defraud such of the shareholders as were not aware of the true state of its affairs, and to induce them to continue to hold shares therein and to become or continue customers and creditors of the bank (to deposit money, &c.).

Sir F. Thesiger, for the Crown, explained the case. The defendants were the directors of a joint-stock banking company which had obtained an unhappy notoriety, viz., the Royal British Bank. The bank was established under a charter from the Crown, on the 17th of November, 1849. It continued to carry on its business till the 3d of September, 1855. Only four of the defendants—viz., Esdaile, Kennedy, Owen, and Cameron—were among the original promoters of the undertaking. A prospectus was issued by the defendants to form the company, with a capital of £300,000, with liberty to increase it to £1,000,000. The capital proposed was afterwards reduced to £100,000, of which only £30,000 was to be paid up; and upon that a charter was obtained. Cameron was appointed general manager at a salary of £1,250 for the first year, £1,500 for the second year, and £2,000 for the third to the seventh year, together with an allowance for house-rent, and an agreement for a commission on the profits of the establishment. Notwithstanding the reduction in the amount of capital, it appeared persons were slow in coming in with their shares, and the company could not open the bank in September as intended. Out of the £30,000 paid to the bank a sum of £7,000 was paid to the directors, and £1,000 to the directors themselves for their services; and in November the required capital of £30,000 was still deficient. Under these circum-

stances the directors made an arrangement with Cameron, the manager, by which he gave his promissory note for £1,300; and having by means of these notes and others made up a deficiency of £7,402 which the bank had opened on the 15th of November, 1849, with great success. All the directors were gentlemen of great intelligence and experience, and they were intrusted with the full control and management of the bank, and the deed, which prescribed their duties in the most minute manner. In the 36th clause it was provided, "that the court of directors should cause necessary and proper books of account to be provided and kept; that at least in every month they should draw up a full, true, and exact statement and balance-sheet exhibiting the assets and liabilities of the company, and the amount and nature of the capital and property thereof, and then fair estimated value thereof, and the amount of the company's payable obligations then in circulation, and the profits and losses of the company, and all other matters and things requisite for fully, truly, and exactly manifesting the actual state and position of the affairs of the bank." By the 60th clause, the directors were half-yearly to declare a dividend "out of the clear profits of the company then actually accrued and realised into possession." By the 71st clause it was provided that at any time the directors should find that the losses of the company had exhausted the surplus fund, and also one-fourth part of the paid-up capital, they should call a special general meeting of the proprietors and submit to them a full statement of the affairs of the company; and if the majority of such meeting should resolve that the losses of the company had exhausted the said fund and one-fourth part of the paid-up capital, the chairman should declare the company dissolved, except for the purpose of being wound up. The Learned Counsel proceeded to observe that it was difficult for the governors to go astray. How, then, had they fulfilled their trust? "I will point out to you—1st, what was the state into which the bank was brought by mismanagement; 2ndly, I will show that the defendants were aware of its condition; and 3rdly, I will ask you whether, with that knowledge, they did not make fraudulent misrepresentations, and do fraudulent acts in order to conceal the true state of its affairs; and whether they have not thus brought themselves within the charge of conspiracy? First, then, what was the state of the bank? It will be found that all the hopeless debts which had been incurred, were represented as assets of the company. The directors themselves were allowed to have large advances on very indifferent securities. Thus M'Gregor, then the governor, had an advance of £13,700, the whole of which, except about £700, was lost. Mullins, the solicitor and first secretary, had £10,000; he died hopelessly insolvent, and not a fraction had been paid. Cochrane had £10,300, and of that £7,000 had been lost.

The cases of Cameron and Brown were extraordinary. Cameron's debt originated in a note for £1,300, which he gave to make up the deficiency of the paid-up capital. That note was discounted by the bank, and formed the first item in an account which swelled to the sum of £36,000, of which £33,000 had been wholly lost. As security, Cameron had mortgaged to the bank property at Dingwall worth £6,000, but already mortgaged for £3,000; he had assigned two debts, which were denied, and certainly were not due; he had assigned another debt where none was due, and eleven policies of life assurance, of which three had lapsed, three had been sold, three had been assigned to his son-in-law, and two pledged to their full value.

The case of Humphrey Brown was even more remarkable. He became a director in February, 1853, when he took some shares, for which he paid with his promissory note. He then opened an account, by paying in £15 11s., and on that very day he borrowed £2,000 of the bank. Within three months he had borrowed other sums of £3,000 and £1,000, making a total of £9,000. The Learned Counsel here described how Brown purchased his ships with money borrowed from the bank, and then borrowed more money from the bank on the security of the ships which he had mortgaged to Walton, the then governor. Walton had become liable to the bank for the sum of £44,000, but an arrangement was made by which Walton should be relieved of his liability on his surrendering his security on the ships to the bank, and Brown agreeing to stand in his place for better or for worse. Brown was required to register these ships in the name of the bank; but instead of that he mortgaged two to the Gloucester Banking Company and sold another. By these means his debt amounted to £74,000, upon which the ultimate loss was £10,000.

After giving some other instances, the Learned Counsel then narrated the history of the advances on the Welsh mines, by which a loss of £120,000 had accrued to the bank in September, 1856. Of the £112,817, the amount of bills held by the bank at the end of the year 1855, £25,501 were bad, £67,372 were doubtful, and only £19,944 were good. The bank had begun business with a capital of only £25,000, it had made no profit, but had lost more than £100,000 in the Welsh mines, and from £80,000 to £90,000 in bad or doubtful bills, and yet the directors declared dividends of 4, 5, and 6 per cent. till the very last.

The next question was, whether the state of things into which they had brought the bank at the end of 1855 was known to the defendants. They attended the meetings of the Board, of the Finance Committee, and of the Past-due Bills Committee. The Learned Counsel referred to a letter written by Esdaile, wherein he stated that bills of "men of straw" had been discounted by the bank, and to an action brought against the bank by a person named Clark; though the action was without foundation, the company, to prevent exposure, compromised the action by paying £2,000, and £267 for costs. Mr. Walton, the governor, had owed the bank £69,000, and, being refused further assistance, he wrote in reply:—"I beg to tell you plainly that it is absolutely necessary that you should continue to discount such bills as we receive from persons who owe us money, not only to prevent us stopping payment, but for the safety of the bank itself, which must fall if the governor and two of the directors fail, with whom will also stop six or seven other persons connected with the bank."

Sir F. Thesiger then reviewed the history of the bank from the 16th of January, 1855, when it was resolved that an account should be drawn up of its assets, down to the 27th of March, 1855, when Brown called the attention of the board to the fact that they had incurred losses to the extent of one-quarter of their paid-up capital, and told them it was their duty to call a meeting of the shareholders, and that if they carried on the bank any longer, it would be on their own personal responsibility. At that time Brown's debt was £77,000, but he was not satisfied, and felt that he had got the directors in his power. Alderman Kennedy was present at that meeting.

The Learned Counsel then showed that the state of affairs was known to all the defendants, and then proceeded to the all-important part of the inquiry—that which related to the representations made by the directors. Though the bank had never been from the beginning in a sound state, and had made no profit, the directors declared dividends out of capital, or rather out of the deposits. In 1855 they issued new shares and published advertisements to induce people to become purchasers. A person named Marcus, who wished to purchase some shares, was induced by Esdaile's description of the flourishing condition of the bank in Kennedy's presence to pay £1,000 for twenty of the new shares. In a similar manner a gentleman named Nicol was induced by Kennedy to purchase some new shares at par on the 10th of September, 1855. Blunton, a poor man, removed all his money from a savings' bank, and purchased shares on the assurance that the British was as safe as the Bank of England, and lost all.

The Learned Gentleman then referred to the balance-sheet laid before the general meeting on the 1st of February, 1856, in which all the debts of the bank, good, bad, and indifferent, went to swell up the amount of "assets." And the bad debts being, in fact, ten times the amount of the gross profits, the directors declared a dividend of 6 per cent., while, according to the charter, they could only declare out of profits accrued and in possession. At the meeting at which that balance-sheet was presented Esdaile was in the chair, and all the other defendants were present. Cameron read the report and the balance-sheet. There was nothing to show that the bank had not the "assets" to the extent stated, in all £1,178,312 9s. 8d. The questioning was therefore mild, and the remark was made that it was rather imprudent to offer the new shares so low as at £5 a share premium. The evil day being thus tidied over, the first thing the Directors did was to advertise in the newspapers and to force the new shares on the public. Kennedy induced a druggist named Dakin to buy 20 shares for £1,600; but Dakin, having in the meantime heard of the Welsh mines, would not accept the transfer, and insisted on the bank paying the money back, which they did. A clergyman named Gosset, who had purchased 20 shares, threatened that if the directors would not take his shares back he would convene a meeting of shareholders, and under this threat they were repurchased by Kennedy in his own name for £980, and that amount went into the "suspense account." Another clergyman, named Ruston, being dissatisfied, entered into a contract for the sale of his shares; but unfortunately in the meantime he went to the bank and saw Esdaile, and the result was that he went back and paid £10 to be off the bargain, kept his shares, and was ruined. The bank struggled on till at last the evil day overtook them, and on the 3d of September, 1856, the doors were closed. It was then found that their liabilities were £700,000 and assets only £300,000, leaving a deficiency of £400,000. The Learned Gentleman concluded an address of nearly five hours by declaring that every one who had connection with the bank had had to rue the day in which he trusted to the assumed fidelity and truthfulness of its directors.

Witnesses were then called in support of this statement of the case. The evidence was still proceeding when we went to press.

GOULD MITCHELL.—The ship Kate Hower, of Baltimore, from Macao, October 15, for Havannah, with coals, was at Ancon, November 22, waiting for men from Batavia. The coals melted, got possession of the between-decks, and set the ship on fire three times; and before they could be subdued the officers had to shoot fifty of them.

the stock in the Bank of England is still accounted for with interest

and in Lombard Street, has somewhat improved, the discount here suffered another decline. The Bank directed the best paper has been done at 2½ to 2 per cent. and in the rate of discount has had considerable influence on the continental exchanges. Within the last few days, gold has been purchased for Prussia and Germany, and

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